

# Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



**Agenda Item:** E                      **Date:** July 27, 2017

<b>Title</b>	First Review of Recommended Cut Scores for the <i>SAT</i> and <i>PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10</i> When Used as Substitute Tests for the Standards of Learning End-of-Course Tests		
<b>Presenter</b>	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:**

No previous review or action.

**Action Requested:**

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:  
September 28, 2017

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

X	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
X	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

Goal 1: The approval of the *2016 revised SAT and PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10* as substitute tests for the Standards of Learning assessments for verified credit will support accountability for student learning;  
Goal 2: The approval of the *2016 revised SAT and PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10* as substitute tests for various Standards of Learning assessments for verified credit will support rigorous standards to promote college and career readiness.

The Standards for Accrediting Public Schools at 8VAC20-131-110 permit the Virginia Board of Education to approve additional “substitute” tests for the purpose of awarding verified credit.

*8VAC20-131-110 Standard and verified units of credit.*

*C. The Board of Education may from time to time approve additional tests for the purpose of awarding verified credit. Such additional tests, which enable students to earn verified units of credit, must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:*

- 1. The test must be standardized and graded independently of the school or school division in which the test is given;*
- 2. The test must be knowledge based;*
- 3. The test must be administered on a multistate or international basis, or administered as part of another state's accountability assessment program; and*
- 4. To be counted in a specific academic area, the test must measure content that incorporates or exceeds the SOL content in the course for which verified credit is given.*

*The Board of Education will set the score that must be achieved to earn a verified unit of credit on the additional test options.*

In the 2017 session of the Virginia General Assembly, § [22.1-253.13:4](#). Standard 4. Student achievement and graduation requirements was amended and reenacted to include: “(p)rovide for the award of verified units of credit for a satisfactory score, as determined by the Board, on the ... Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) examination.” In February 2017, Salem City also nominated the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT10 as substitute tests for the SOL end-of-course Reading test and for the SOL end-of-course Algebra I test. In reviewing information provided by the publisher of the PSAT/NMSQT, the Virginia Department of Education learned that the PSAT10 is the same test as the PSAT/NMSQT.

In addition, the SAT that is on the current list of approved substitute tests was extensively revised by its publisher in 2016. As a result, it was necessary to review the 2016 SAT to ensure that it still incorporated or exceeded the content of the current SOL and to adopt new cut scores for “proficient” and “advanced.”

The tests being brought to the BOE are the *2016 revised SAT Reading Test* and the *PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10 Reading Test* as substitute tests for the SOL end-of-course Reading Test; the *2016 revised SAT Writing and Language Test* including the optional essay as a substitute test for the SOL end-of-course Writing Test; and the *2016 revised SAT Math Test* and the *PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10 Math Test* as substitute tests for the SOL end-of-course Algebra I test. More information about each test may be found in Attachment A.

In compliance with procedures established by the Virginia Board of Education for the approval of substitute tests (Attachment B), staff in the Division of Instruction at the Virginia Department of Education reviewed each of the proposed substitute tests and determined that the content assessed was consistent with that measured by the corresponding SOL end-of-course test. Following this review staff in the Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement reviewed the technical quality of the assessments, and in June, 2017, a committee of Virginia educators recommended scores on each of the proposed substitute tests that would be equivalent to scores of pass/proficient and pass/advanced on the associated SOL end-of-course test.

The current list of substitute tests approved by the Board of Education (Attachment C) may be found at [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute\\_tests/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute_tests/index.shtml). The substitute tests are used to award verified credit for students and are included in the accreditation calculations for schools.

**Summary of Important Issues:**

Information about the *2016 revised SAT* and *PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10 tests* and the cut scores recommended by the committee of educators to represent pass/proficient and pass/advanced will be presented to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will be asked to review this information and to consider the proposal to add the *2016 revised SAT* and *PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10 tests* to the list of approved substitute tests for the SOL end-of-course reading test.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

Costs to convene the committee educators to review the substitute test and to recommend cut scores were covered with existing resources.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The Board is being asked to waive first review and to approve the substitute tests at the July 27, 2017 Board meeting.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the cut scores for the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for the following substitute tests.

Reading

- *SAT Reading* test score: 21 for pass/proficient and 30 for pass/advanced
- *PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10 Reading* test score: 21 for pass/proficient and 31 for pass/advanced

Writing

- *SAT Writing and Literacy* test score and *Essay Writing* subscore: 21 with at least a four (4) on the *Essay Writing* subscore for pass/proficient and 31 with at least a six (6) on the *Essay Writing* subscore for pass/advanced.

Algebra I

- *SAT Math* section score: 440 for pass/proficient and 520 for pass/advanced
- *PSAT/NMSQT/PSAT10 Math* section score: 460 for pass/proficient and 550 for pass/advanced

**Rationale:**

Approving the substitute tests and their associated cut scores at the July 27, 2017, meeting will provide notification to school divisions of the availability of these tests prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

## SAT Suite of Assessments

The SAT Suite of Assessments includes the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10. The tests included in the SAT Suite of Assessments are connected by the same underlying content continuum of knowledge and skills and are on the same vertical scale. The SAT Suite of Assessments also includes a PSAT 8/9 that was not considered as a substitute test for verified credit.

The PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 are the same assessment, administered at different times of the year. In addition, the PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test for entry to the National Merit® Scholarship Program, conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT (typically in the fall of their junior year) and meet all other program entry requirements will be eligible to enter NMSC's competitions.<sup>1</sup>

Each of the assessments in the SAT suite includes two section scores, both in the range of 200–800 for the SAT and in the range of 160-760 for the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10.

- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section Score  
The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section score is a combination of the Reading Test score and the Writing and Language Test score. Since the score is a combination of reading and writing, this score was not used.
- Math Section Score  
The Math section score is derived from the Math Test score (including both the Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator portions). This score was used for both the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 for the SOL Algebra I.

The SAT suite includes three test scores (reading, writing/language, and math) in the range of 10–40 for the SAT and in the range of 8–38 for the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10:

- Reading Test Score  
This score was used for the SOL English: Reading for both the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10
- Writing and Language Test Score  
This score along with the essay scores was used for the SOL English: Writing for the SAT.
- Math Test Score  
This score was not used since there is an overall math section score.

While the SAT has an optional writing essay, the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 do not offer an essay. Students who take the optional SAT Essay receive three scores, each on a 2 to 8 scale: Reading, Analysis, and Writing. The Writing Essay Score was used for consideration for the SOL English: Writing.

<sup>1</sup> The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is a cosponsor of the PSAT/NMSQT and uses the test as an initial screen of candidates for the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. For details, visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

**Superintendent's Memo No. 298-14**



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education**

October 31, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Updated Process and Nomination Form for Additional Substitute Tests for Verified Credit for Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests**

The Standards for Accrediting Public Schools at 8VAC20-131-110 permit the Virginia Board of Education to approve “substitute” tests for the purpose of awarding verified credit. The approved tests must meet the following criteria:

1. The test must be standardized and graded independently of the school or school division in which the test is given;
2. The test must be knowledge based;
3. The test must be administered on a multistate or international basis, or administered as part of another state's accountability assessment program; and
4. To be counted in a specific academic area, the test must measure content that incorporates or exceeds the SOL content in the course for which verified credit is given.

The Board will set the score that must be achieved to earn a verified unit of credit on the additional test options.

The Department of Education accepts nominations from school divisions for tests to substitute for the SOL end-of-course tests. Such nominations will be made by the division superintendent to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The purpose of this memo is to update the process for approval and the nomination form that were originally announced in [Superintendent's Memo No. 73](#), May 11, 2001.

An updated nomination form for substitute tests for verified credit(s) is attached. Please send completed nomination forms with any additional documentation annually by February 15 via e-

mail to [studentassessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:studentassessment@doe.virginia.gov). School divisions may submit nominations past the deadline if extenuating circumstances so demand.

**Timeline for Approval:** The Department will review and recommend substitute tests for verified credit(s) on an annual basis. Nominations received annually by February 15 will be presented to the Board of Education for approval prior to the following school year.

**Process for Approval:** The process of approving tests nominated as substitutes shall be as follows:

1. Review by the Division of Instruction. The purpose of this review is to determine the degree to which the content basis of the nominated test matches the SOL test for which it is nominated as a substitute. The criteria outlined in the Standards of Accreditation will also be applied. Substitute tests determined to have a moderate or high correlation will continue through the approval process.
2. Review by the Division of Assessment and School Improvement Related to Technical Qualities. The Division of Assessment and School Improvement will review the tests forwarded from the Division of Instruction with regard to the technical aspects of the tests' construction. Typical guidelines for test development will be used in this review. Tests deemed to have sufficient technical merit will move forward in the approval process.
3. Establishing Score Points for Pass/Proficient and Advanced/Proficient or Advanced/College Path (where applicable). The Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement will convene teacher committees that will be tasked with the responsibility of reviewing the proposed substitute tests and recommending the score points that will be used to establish the Pass/Proficient and Pass/Advanced Proficient or Advanced/College Path (where applicable) ratings for verified credit(s).
4. Review and Approval by the Virginia Board of Education. Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement will forward the recommendations of the teacher committees with accompanying background materials to the Board of Education.
5. Communications to the School Divisions. Upon the action of the Board of Education, the Department of Education will convey, via a Superintendent's Memo, to the local school divisions, the availability of additional substitute tests.

SRS/SLR/JWH/cd

Attachment:

- A. [Nomination Form for Substitute Tests for Verified Credit](#) (Word)



# VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Substitute Tests Approved for Awarding Verified Credit

**Revised November 11, 2016**

A change log is at the end of the document.

As permitted by the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools ([8VAC20-131-110](#)), the Virginia Board of Education has approved various “substitute” tests and set the minimum score that must be achieved for the purpose of awarding verified credit to students. The tests listed in this document are approved by the Virginia Board of Education as substitute tests, and verified credit can be awarded when the student achieves at least the minimum score required for a Pass/Proficient rating as shown for each test.

### English Substitute Tests

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
End-of-Course Writing	AP English Language and Composition +	2	3
End-of-Course Writing	International Baccalaureate® (IB) English Language A: Literature and Language (Standard Level) +	2	3
End-of-Course Writing	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Higher Level) +	2	3
End-of-Course Writing	IB English Language A: Literature (Standard Level) +	2	3
End-of-Course Writing	IB English Language A: Literature (Higher Level) +	2	3
End-of-Course Writing	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT) Writing Subscore +	17	24
End-of-Course Writing	Cambridge International Examination: Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) First Language English	D	C
End-of-Course Writing	Cambridge International Examinations: English Language General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Subsidiary-(AS) Level	E	D

+ Students may use this test to earn two verified credits in English.

**English Substitute Tests (continued)**

<b>SOL Test</b>	<b>Substitute Test</b>	<b>Pass/Proficient</b>	<b>Pass/Advanced</b>
End-of-Course Writing	ACT: English/Writing Combined Score	16	22
End-of-Course Writing	ACT WorkKeys <i>Writing</i> ++	3	4
End-of-Course Writing	ACT WorkKeys <i>Business Writing</i> (ACT will discontinue this test on June 1, 2018. See Superintendent's Memo No. 280-16, dated November 11, 2016 for details.)	3	4
End-of-Course Writing	AP English Literature and Composition +	2	3
End-of-Course Writing	SAT I Writing (Must have been administered prior to March 2016.)	400	500
End-of-Course Reading	AP English Literature and Composition +	2	3
End-of-Course Reading	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Standard Level) +	2	3
End-of-Course Reading	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Higher Level) +	2	3
End-of-Course Reading	IB English Language A: Literature (Standard Level) +	2	3
End-of-Course Reading	IB English Language A: Literature (Higher Level) +	2	3
End-of-Course Reading	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT) Reading Subtest +	16	21
End-of-Course Reading	Cambridge International Examinations: Literature in English (IGCSE)	E	C
End-of-Course Reading	Cambridge International Examination: English Language GCE-Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level	E	D
End-of-Course Reading	Cambridge International Examination: Literature in English GCE Advanced (A) Level	E	D
End-of-Course Reading	ACT: Reading Subtest	17	22
End-of-Course Reading	AP English Language and Composition +	2	3
End-of-Course Reading	ACT WorkKeys <i>Reading for Information</i> +++	4	6

+ Students may use this test to earn two verified credits in English.

++ Available as a substitute test for the End-of-Course Writing test based on the 2002 SOL only.

+++ Effective beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

**Mathematics Substitute Tests**

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
Algebra I	CLEP College Algebra	30	40
Algebra I	IB Math Studies (Standard Level)++++	3	4
Algebra I	IB Mathematics (Standard Level)++++	3	4
Algebra I	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)++++	3	4
Algebra I	SAT I Mathematics Subtest (Must have been administered prior to March 2016.)	440	520
Algebra I	SAT II Math IC or SAT Subject Test in Mathematics Level 1	500	570
Algebra I	SAT II Math IIC or SAT Subject Test in Mathematics Level 2	590	660
Algebra I	AP Calculus +++++	2	3
Algebra I	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Mathematics	E	D
Algebra I	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Additional Mathematics	E	D
Algebra I	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Extended Mathematics	D	C
Algebra I	Cambridge International Examinations: Mathematics (A Level)	E	D
Algebra I	Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (A Level)	E	D
Algebra I	ACT: Mathematics Subtest	18	26
Algebra II	IB Math Studies (Standard Level)++++	3	4
Algebra II	IB Mathematics (Standard Level)++++	3	4

++++ Students may use this test to earn two verified credits in mathematics.

**Mathematics Substitute Tests (continued)**

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
Algebra II	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)++++	3	4
Algebra II	SAT II Math IC or SAT Subject Test in Mathematics Level 1	500	570
Algebra II	SAT II Math IIC or SAT Subject Test in Mathematics Level 2	590	660
Algebra II	AP Calculus++++	2	3
Algebra II	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Additional Mathematics	E	D
Algebra II	Cambridge International Examinations: Mathematics (A Level)	E	D
Algebra II	Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (A Level)	E	D
Algebra II	CLEP College Algebra	50	63
Geometry	Cambridge International Examinations: IGSCE Mathematics	E	C
Geometry	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Extended Mathematics	D	C
Geometry	ACT: Mathematics Subtest	20	27
Geometry	IB Math Studies (Standard Level)++++	3	4
Geometry	IB Mathematics (Standard Level)++++	3	4
Geometry	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)++++	3	4

++++ Students may use this test to earn two verified credits in mathematics.

**Mathematics Substitute Tests (continued)**

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
Geometry	SAT II Math IC or SAT Subject Test in Mathematics Level 1	500	570
Geometry	SAT II Math IIC or SAT Subject Test in Mathematics Level 2	590	660
Geometry	AP Calculus++++	2	3

++++ Students may use this test to earn two verified credits in mathematics.

**Science Substitute Tests**

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
Earth Science	Cambridge International Examinations: Environmental Science, GCE - AS Level	E	D
Earth Science	IB Environmental Systems and Society (Standard Level)	2	3
Earth Science	AP Environmental Science	2	3
Biology	AP Biology	2	3
Biology	SAT II Biology Ecological OR Molecular	350	450
Biology	CLEP General Biology	30	40
Biology	IB Biology (Higher Level)	2	3
Biology	IB Biology (Standard Level)	2	3
Biology	Cambridge International Examinations: Biology, GCE -A Level	E	D
Biology	Cambridge International Examinations: Biology, GCE- AS Level	E	D

**Science Substitute Tests (continued)**

<b>SOL Test</b>	<b>Substitute Test</b>	<b>Pass/Proficient</b>	<b>Pass/Advanced</b>
Chemistry	AP Chemistry	2	3
Chemistry	SAT II Chemistry	400	500
Chemistry	CLEP General Chemistry	33	43
Chemistry	IB Chemistry (Higher Level)	2	3
Chemistry	IB Chemistry (Standard Level)	2	3
Chemistry	Cambridge International Examinations: Chemistry, GCE- A Level	E	D
Chemistry	Cambridge International Examinations: Chemistry, GCE - AS Level	E	D

**History and Social Science Substitute Tests**

<b>SOL Test</b>	<b>Substitute Test</b>	<b>Pass/Proficient</b>	<b>Pass/Advanced</b>
VA & US History	AP US History	2	3
VA & US History	CLEP History of US I and II (total score for both tests)	60	80
VA & US History	SAT II American History	400	500
VA & US History	IB US History (Higher Level)	2	3
World History and Geography to 1500	SAT II World History	450	530
World History and Geography to 1500	AP World History	2	3
World History and Geography 1500-Present	SAT II World History	450	530
World History and Geography 1500-Present	AP World History	2	3
World History and Geography 1500-Present	AP European History	2	3
World History and Geography 1500-Present	IB History of Europe	2	3

**History and Social Science Substitute Tests (continued)**

<b>SOL Test</b>	<b>Substitute Test</b>	<b>Pass/Proficient</b>	<b>Pass/Advanced</b>
World Geography	AP Human Geography	2	3
World Geography	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Geography	F	D
World Geography	Cambridge International Examinations: GCE -AS Level	E	C
World Geography	Cambridge International Examinations: GCE -A Level	E	D
World Geography	IB Geography Test	2	3

**Document Change Log:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>
02/25/2016	ACT WorkKeys <i>Reading for Information</i> test added as a substitute test.
08/19/2016	Updated <i>SAT I Writing</i> assessment and <i>SAT I Mathematics Subtest</i> . Due to changes in these assessments by the College Board, the tests must have been administered prior to March, 2016 to be valid for awarding verified credit.
08/19/2016	Updated <i>SAT II Math IC</i> assessment to reflect name change by the College Board to <i>SAT Subject Test in Mathematics Level 1</i> .
08/19/2016	Updated <i>SAT II Math IIC</i> assessment to reflect name change by the College Board to <i>SAT Subject Test in Mathematics Level 2</i> .
09/09/2016	Updated ACT WorkKeys <i>Business Writing</i> indicating that ACT will discontinue this test on June 1, 2017. See Superintendent's Memo No. 222-16, dated September 9, 2016, for details.
11/11/2016	Updated ACT WorkKeys <i>Business Writing</i> indicating that ACT has extended the availability of this assessment until June 1, 2018. See Superintendent's Memo No. 280-16, dated November 11, 2016, for details.