

Virginia Board of Education Public Hearings on Revisions to the Standards of Quality (SOQ)

The Constitution of Virginia requires the Board of Education to prescribe standards of quality for the public schools of Virginia, subject to revision only by the General Assembly. These standards, found in the *Code of Virginia* §§ 22.1-253.13:1 through 22.1-253.13:9, are known as the Standards of Quality (SOQ) and encompass the requirements that must be met by all Virginia public schools and divisions. Every two years – as required by the Code – the Board of Education reviews the SOQ for necessary revisions. In conducting the review, the Board seeks public comment including suggestions and concerns of educators, parents, students, employers, civic and community leaders, and other interested citizens in addressing the needs, priorities, and programs in public schools across Virginia.

The following chart includes recommendations for revisions to the Standards of Quality based on public comments received from May to September 2012. The chart also includes recommendations made in previous years. Each recommendation is aligned with one or more of the Board of Education's proposed goals for public education, as outlined in its *Comprehensive Plan: 2012-2017*.

In addition to feedback on the recommendations included below, the Board of Education would like to hear your ideas for revisions to the Standards of Quality.

Recommendations for Revisions to the Standards of Quality	Board of Education's Proposed Goals for Public Education 2012-2017						
	<i>Accountability for Student Learning</i>	<i>Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness</i>	<i>Expanded Opportunities to Learn</i>	<i>Nurturing Young Learners</i>	<i>Highly Qualified and Effective Educators</i>	<i>Sound Policies for Student Success</i>	<i>Safe and Secure Schools</i>
Recommendations from Public Comment May - Sept 2012							
Require one full-time principal in every elementary school	X				X		
Require one full-time assistant principal for every 400 students	X				X		
Reduce the speech-language pathologist caseload from 68 to 60 students	X		X		X		
Require one reading specialist for every 1,000 students	X	X			X		
Require one mathematics specialist for every 1,000 students	X	X			X		
Require one data coordinator for every 1,000 students	X				X		
Establish a pupil-teacher ratio for students who are blind or vision impaired	X		X		X		

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Recommendations from Public Comment May - Sept 2012 (Cont.)							
Request the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to conduct a study of the SOQ to assist in determining whether "SOQ funding is realistic in relation to the Commonwealth's current educational needs and practices"	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Propose legislation to shift the review of the SOQ from even to odd-numbered years to be aligned more effectively with the legislative budget process						X	
Recommendations for Consideration from Previous Reviews							
Codify the provisions of the Early Intervention Reading Initiative and the Algebra Readiness program by including them in the Standards of Quality and requiring all school divisions to provide these interventions with funding currently appropriated for these incentive programs	X	X					
Codify the Appropriation Act provision that the Standards of Quality includes a minimum of 58 licensed, full-time instructional positions per 1,000 students, including instructional positions for special education, gifted education, and career and technical education	X				X		
Codify the staffing standards for special education (currently in regulations), gifted education (currently in the Appropriation Act), and career and technical education (currently in regulations)	X				X		

E-mail SOQComments@doe.virginia.gov to submit written comments concerning the 2012 review and revisions to the Standards of Quality.