



Expedited Retake Criteria

**Virginia Board of Education's
Committee on School and Division Accountability**

November 15, 2017

A Brief History Lesson

- **“Emergency Retakes” established by the Board in 2000**
- **Intended for students who needed to pass an end-of-course test to graduate**
- **Provided an opportunity for students to retake a test BEFORE the next test administration if they were “close” to passing.**

Original Expedited Retake Criteria

“The student must:

- 1) Have passed the course associated with the test; and
- 2) One of the following:
 - Failed the test by a narrow margin; or
 - Failed the test by any margin and have extenuating circumstances that would warrant retesting; or
 - Did not sit for the regularly scheduled test for legitimate reasons.

The “narrow margin” criteria shall be defined as a scaled score of 375-399.

The division superintendent will be responsible for making the determination of what constitutes “extenuating circumstances” and “legitimate reasons” for the purposes of establishing eligibility for an expedited retest of a Standards of Learning test.”

Expansion of Expedited Retakes in 2015

- **In 2015 Board expanded the opportunity for expedited retakes to students taking the grades 3-8 SOL tests**
- **Same criteria used for end-of-course applied**
- **Parental permission to retest required**

Application of “Extenuating Circumstances” in Spring 2017

- **Spring 2017 Expedited Retests in Grades 3 - 8:**
 - **124,601 expedited retests administered to students whose initial attempt was between 375-399.**
 - **13,533 expedited retests administered to students whose initial attempt was below 375 (extenuating circumstance).**

Survey of “Extenuating Circumstances”

- **Survey of school divisions regarding their use of the Extenuating Circumstances policy sent out in September.**

	Total Divisions Completing Survey	Total Divisions with No Response	Total Divisions	% Divisions Completing Survey
Region 1	12	3	15	80.0%
Region 2	11	4	15	73.3%
Region 3	14	3	17	82.4%
Region 4	16	3	19	84.2%
Region 5	18	2	20	90.0%
Region 6	13	2	15	86.7%
Region 7	16	3	19	84.2%
Region 8	11	1	12	91.7%
Total	111	21	132	84.1%

Survey Questions (paraphrased)

- **Who determines eligibility for an expedited retake of an SOL test due to extenuating circumstances?**
- **Is there a written policy?**
- **What criteria for extenuating circumstances are used?**
- **Are the same criteria for the grades 3-8 SOL tests and the end-of-course tests used?**
- **Please provide examples of extenuating circumstances from spring 2017.**
- **Any other details or concerns?**

Questions for Discussion

- **Should the Board provide additional guidance regarding the meaning of “extenuating circumstances”?**
- **Should the guidance differ for end-of-course tests and the grades 3-8 tests?**