

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ P. _____

Date: September 23, 2010

Topic: Report on the Preliminary Analysis of Virginia's 2009 Mathematics Standards of Learning Compared to the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics

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Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by

State or federal law or regulation

Board of Education regulation

Other: _____

Action requested at this meeting Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action

date _____

action _____

Background Information:

In February 2009, the Virginia Board of Education adopted revised *Mathematics Standards of Learning*, followed by adoption of the Mathematics Curriculum Framework on October 22, 2010. As part of the development of the standards, the work of the committee members was informed by reports from Achieve, the College Board, ACT, as well as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Frameworks, the Curriculum Focal Points from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), Principles and Standards for School Mathematics from NCTM, the Singapore Curricula, and the Report of the President's National Mathematics Advisory Panel. Furthermore, as a member of Achieve's American Diploma Project (ADP) Network, Virginia participated in a rigorous external review process of the 2009 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*, with both ACT and the College Board analyzing Virginia's mathematics standards against their own college- and career-ready benchmarks or standards. Both analyses showed strong alignment between the Virginia Standards of Learning and their respective standards for postsecondary readiness. According to the College Board's analysis, "The Virginia proposed Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) present student learning expectations that are intellectually demanding and generally well aligned with the ADP Benchmarks. If Virginia's students master the state standards, they will likely be well prepared for both workplace and college success."

In June 2010, the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School

Officers (CCSSO) released the Mathematics Common Core State Standards. Since Achieve, the College Board, and ACT were partners with NGA and CCSSO, their earlier work with states in the ADP Network provided a foundation upon which the Common Core Standards were developed. As such, Virginia's 2009 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* have a strong alignment to the Mathematics Common Core State Standards. Both the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) are rigorous and provide a detailed account of mathematics expectations for student learning and understanding. The content topics covered in both documents are clearly defined and sequential. By the time students have progressed into high school mathematics content through the CCSS or SOL, students have received most of the same mathematical content delivered through different learning progressions. While learning progressions may not completely mirror one another, the content from both is aligned.

Summary of Major Elements

A preliminary analysis of the content included in Virginia's 2009 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* as compared with the Mathematics Common Core State Standards will be provided at the Board meeting.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the Report on the Preliminary Analysis of Virginia's 2009 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* Compared to the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics

Impact on Resources:

This analysis has been completed using existing resources within the agency. If the agency is required to absorb additional responsibilities related to this activity, other services may be affected.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The Department of Education staff will involve mathematics educators in local school divisions and continue to analyze the Common Core State Standards as compared to the Standards of Learning. A final report will be presented to the Board in the fall.

Virginia will continue to monitor work at the national level related to the Common Core State Standards and the Common Assessments. The state will take the opportunity to benefit from Common Core products and processes, which are being developed in the public domain. In the meantime, Virginia's Curriculum Framework, other instructional material, and professional development events continue to support mathematics teaching and learning in the Commonwealth. New enhanced mathematics assessments will be administered for the first time in Virginia in 2011-2012, two years before the Common Standards assessment consortia anticipate administration of the common assessments.