



- D. The Board shall prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education preparation program and shall establish a minimum passing score for such assessment. The Board also may prescribe other requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education preparation programs in its regulations....

Section 23-9.2:3.6 (Education preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education) of the *Code* states, in part the following:

- A. Education preparation programs shall be required to meet the requirements for accreditation and program approval as prescribed by the Board of Education in its regulations.
- B. As provided in § 22.1-298.2, the Board of Education shall prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education program and shall establish a minimum passing score for such assessment. The Board also may prescribe other requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education programs in its regulations.
- C. Candidates who fail to achieve the minimum score established by the Board of Education may be denied entrance into the relevant education program on the basis of such failure; however, if enrolled in the program, they shall have the opportunity to address any deficiencies.

Effective January 1, 2006, the Board of Education approved the following assessments for individuals seeking initial licensure in Virginia unless an individual meets the exemption criteria as prescribed in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*:

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA);  
Praxis II (content) Assessments; and  
Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable.

Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) continued to be the prescribed assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into teacher education programs. The Board of Education also continued to allow the use of a composite score of the Praxis Reading, Writing, and Mathematics tests to meet the Praxis I assessment requirement and the use of the SAT® and ACT® as substitute tests for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics).

### **Summary of Major Elements**

On January 25, 2010, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure voted to recommend that the Board of Education allow the use of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) as an optional test for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests for individuals seeking entry into teacher education programs. The cut scores for the VCLA prescribed by the Board of Education are as follows:

Writing Sub Test:	235
Reading Sub Test:	235
<b>Composite Score:</b>	<b>470</b>

An individual choosing to use the VCLA (Reading and Writing) as a optional assessment for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests will be required to meet the Praxis I Mathematics assessment (or equivalent SAT® or ACT® test scores).

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to approve the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (Reading and Writing) as an optional test for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests for entry into a teacher preparation program.

**Impact on Resources:**

The impact on resources is minimal. Costs associated with the test will be incurred by the test taker.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure will be presented to the Board of Education for final review on March 18, 2010.