

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 2000 the Virginia Board of Education approved AP calculus as a substitute test for the end-of-course mathematics tests (Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II). Based on the cut scores adopted by the Board, students earning a score of 2 on AP calculus are considered to be proficient and those earning 3 or higher are considered to be advanced. Under the current policy, a score of 2 or higher on AP calculus can be used to verify one credit in mathematics.

Summary of Major Elements:

Virginia Department of Education staff have been contacted by a parent of a transfer student asking that the Board reconsider its policy of allowing AP calculus to verify only one credit in mathematics. The rationale for the change is that students who score well on the AP Calculus test have demonstrated proficiency in lower level mathematics classes as a prerequisite to Calculus. Allowing an acceptable score on AP Calculus to verify two credits will benefit transfer students who often have taken Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II before entering the Virginia Public Schools but who may need as many as two verified credits to be eligible for an advanced studies diploma. Fairfax County Public Schools has also indicated support for the proposal to allow AP Calculus to verify two mathematics credits as long as this policy is restricted to AP Calculus BC.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the proposal to allow Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC to verify two mathematics credits.

Impact on Resources:

N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The Department of Education will notify local school divisions.