

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ S. _____

Date: January 13, 2011

Topic: First Review of the Proposed Addition of Asian Students as a Subgroup for the Purposes of Calculating Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Virginia's Consolidated State Application Accountability Plan under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Presenter: Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Student Assessment and School Improvement

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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: February 17, 2011

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action: Initial approval of Virginia's Accountability Workbook on January 28, 2003

Background Information:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) requires state educational agencies (SEA) to submit individual or consolidated state applications to the United States Department of Education (USED) for approval. In 2002, the Virginia Board of Education submitted and received USED approval for its initial Consolidated State Application under NCLB. A major component of the consolidated application is Virginia's Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook. Virginia received USED approval for its accountability workbook in June 2003. Additional amendments have been made to Virginia's workbook each year since then.

Virginia's Consolidated State Accountability Workbook states that Virginia's major racial and ethnic categories represent groups in which the number of students exceeds five percent of the student population. When the workbook was initially written, those groups were Black, White, and Hispanic. Since that time, the Asian student population has grown to exceed five percent of the student population on a consistent basis. While the Asian student population has exceeded five percent of the total student population since 2008-2009, the request to include Asians as a subgroup for the purposes of calculating Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) has been delayed pending the implementation of new federally mandated race and ethnicity categories in 2010-2011.

The new federally mandated categories allow individuals to identify with one or more races and also to indicate if they are Hispanic. Students indicating they are Hispanic are counted in the Hispanic group regardless of their race and are not counted in any of the other race categories. The table below shows the distribution of students in Fall Membership in each category for several years. Of particular note is that the number of Asian students, as a percentage of the school population, has exceeded five percent for several years even with the implementation of the new federal race/ethnicity codes.

Virginia's School Population Disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity

School Year	% White	% Black	% Hispanic	% Asian	% American Indian	% Hawaiian	% Other/ Two+	Total Student Enrollment
2008-2009	56.53	25.71	8.96	5.60	0.30	0.11	2.80	1,236,109
2009-2010	56.38	25.15	9.29	5.88	0.32	0.12	2.86	1,214,786
2010-2011	54.51	23.73	11.28	5.91	0.34	0.14	4.09	1,220,845

Note: "Other" in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 means "unspecified". "Two+" refers to "two or more races" in 2010-2011.

Summary of Major Elements:

Given that the Asian subgroup has exceeded five percent of Virginia's student population over a period of years, the Board is asked to consider adding the Asian subgroup to those groups included in AYP calculations for schools, school divisions, and the state. The Asian subgroup would be included in AYP calculations for the first time for the 2012-2013 school year based on assessments administered in 2011-2012. Action by the Board in early 2011 will notify school divisions of the additional category for AYP calculations in time to prepare for the change and will not complicate the major changes and releases planned for summer and fall 2011. AYP calculations for the 2012-2013 school year will use the most recent three years of data available for Asian students.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review a proposed amendment to Virginia's Consolidated State Application Accountability Plan to add Asian students as a subgroup to be used in AYP calculations for the first time in the 2012-2013 school year, based on assessments administered in 2011-2012.

Impact on Resources:

The provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) require the Department of Education to collect and analyze data related to determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all schools and school divisions in the state. These requirements will continue to have an impact on the agency's resources.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

This item will be presented to the Board of Education for final review at the February 17, 2011, meeting.