

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: K

Date: November 21, 2013

Title	First Review of Recommended Revisions to the Substitute Tests Approved for Verified Credit		
Presenter	Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement		
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Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

Previous Review or Action:

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

May, 2011: Additional substitute tests approved.

Action Requested:

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:

January 16, 2014

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

X	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
X	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Goal 1: The approval of revisions to the approved list of substitute tests for verified credit will support accountability for student learning.

Goal 2: The approval of revisions to the approved list of substitute tests for verified credit will support rigorous standards to promote college and career readiness.

The Standards for Accrediting Public Schools at 8VAC20-131-110 permit the Virginia Board of Education to approve additional “substitute” tests for the purpose of awarding verified credit.

8VAC20-131-110 Standard and verified units of credit.

C. The Board of Education may from time to time approve additional tests for the purpose of awarding verified credit. Such additional tests, which enable students to earn verified units of credit, must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

- 1. The test must be standardized and graded independently of the school or school division in which the test is given;*
- 2. The test must be knowledge based;*
- 3. The test must be administered on a multistate or international 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.

The current list of substitute tests approved by the Board of Education may be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute_tests/index.shtml. The substitute tests are used to award verified credit for students and are included in the accreditation calculations for schools.

At the time that these tests were approved as substitute tests, they were judged to measure content that incorporated or exceeded the Standards of Learning (SOL) in effect. Because new SOL have been implemented in all subject areas over the last few years, it was necessary to review the current substitute tests to ensure that they still incorporated or exceeded the content of the current SOL and that the adopted cut scores for “proficient” and “advanced” were still appropriate.

Virginia Department of Education staff evaluated the current substitute tests to determine if the content they measured incorporated or exceeded the current SOL. Committees of educators were then convened to review the tests and evaluate the previously adopted cut scores. In some cases committee members verified the current cut scores. In other cases they recommended revisions to the cut scores or recommended that a test be removed from the list.

Summary of Important Issues:

Recommendations for revisions to the cut scores for the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for certain substitute tests currently on the Board-approved list will be presented. Additionally, recommendations for the removal of some of the previously approved substitute tests will be presented as well as recommendations for the addition of several new

substitute tests, including cut scores for pass/proficient and pass/advanced for each test. Recommended revisions to the list of approved substitute tests appear in strikethrough version of the current list in Attachment A.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

Costs to convene the committees to review the substitute tests were covered with existing resources.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon approval by the Board of Education, action regarding the list of substitute tests approved for verified credit will be disseminated to school divisions via a Superintendent's Memorandum.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board accept for first review revisions to the list of substitute tests approved for verified credits.

Substitute Tests for Verified Credit

Recommendations for Revisions

November 2013

SOL Substitute Tests for Verified Credit

**Recommended Changes to Cut Scores for Already Approved Substitute Tests
English Substitute Tests**

Recommended Changes to the English Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comments
English: Writing	AP English Language and Composition+++	2	3	
	International Baccalaureate® (IB) English Language A: Literature and Language (Higher Level)	2	3	Name of test adjusted for accuracy. Committee recommends that this test count for a verified credit for both English: Reading and English: Writing.
	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Standard Level)	2	3	Name of test adjusted for accuracy. Committee recommends that this test count for a verified credit for both English: Reading and English: Writing.
	IB English Language A: Literature (Standard Level)	2	3	Name of test adjusted for accuracy. Committee recommends that this test count for a verified credit for both English: Reading and English: Writing.
	IB English Language A: Literature (Higher Level)	2	3	Name of test adjusted for accuracy. Committee recommends that this test count for a verified credit for both English: Reading and English: Writing.
	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT)+ Writing Subscore	56 17	83 24	Previously adopted cut scores were based on total scores which included reading, writing, listening and speaking. The committee recommends using the score from the writing subtest since this part of the test more closely matches the SOL Writing Test.
	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Paper-based Testing (PBT)+	483	557	No longer administered in the U.S. Removal from approved list recommended

Recommended Changes to the English Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comments
	Advanced Placement International English Language (APIEL)	2	3	No longer administered. Removal from approved list recommended.
	Cambridge International Examinations: English Language General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Subsidiary-(AS) Level	E	D	Name adjusted for accuracy.
	Cambridge International Examination: Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) First Language English	G D	D C	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. Generally the scores from the Cambridge tests range from G (lowest score) to A (highest score).
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE English as a Second Language	D	C	Recommendation to remove this assessment since the content of the test no longer matches the more rigorous SOL.
	ACT: English/Writing Combined Score	22-16	30 22	The previously adopted cut score was based on the English score. ACT now has a Writing test. The combined score of the English and Writing subtests more closely matches the SOL Writing test.
	WorkKeys: Writing	3	4	Since ACT plans to discontinue this assessment, it was not reviewed against the new SOL.
	AP English Literature and Composition++	2	3	
	SAT I Writing	400	500	
English: Reading	AP English Literature and Composition++	2	3	
	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Higher Level)	2	3	Name of test adjusted for accuracy. Committee recommends that this test count for a verified credit for both English: Reading and English: Writing.

Recommended Changes to the English Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comments
	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Standard Level)	2	3	Name of test adjusted for accuracy. Committee recommends that this test count for a verified credit for both English: Reading and English: Writing.
	IB English Language A: Literature (Standard Level)	2	3	Name of test adjusted for accuracy. Committee recommends that this test count for a verified credit for both English: Reading and English: Writing.
	IB English Language A: Literature (Higher Level)	2	3	Name of test adjusted for accuracy. Committee recommends that this test count for a verified credit for both English: Reading and English: Writing.
	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT)+ Reading Subtest	56 16	83 21	Previously adopted cut scores were based on total scores which included reading, writing, listening and speaking. The committee recommends using the score from the reading subtest since this part of the test more closely matches the SOL Reading Test.
	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Paper-based Testing (PBT)+	483	557	No longer administered. Removal from approved list recommended.
	Cambridge International Examinations: Literature in English (IGCSE)	G E	D C	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	Cambridge International Examination: Literature in English GCE Advanced (A) Level	E	D	Name adjusted for accuracy.
	Cambridge International Examination: English Language GCE-Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level	E	D	Name adjusted for accuracy.

Recommended Changes to the English Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comments
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE English as a Second Language	D	E	Recommendation to remove this assessment since the content of the test no longer matches the more rigorous SOL.
	ACT: Reading Subtest	25 17	31 22	ACT recommends a cut score of 21 or 22 as representing College & Career Readiness. Based on this information the committee recommends lowering the cut scores.
	AP English Language and Composition+++	2	3	

+The Internet-based and the Paper-based Tests have replaced the Computer-based Test.

++The AP Literature and Composition test may be used as a substitute for *both* the *English: Reading/Literature/Research* and the *English: Writing* tests. Students may use the AP Literature and Composition test to earn two English verified units of credit.

+++The AP Language and Composition test may be used as a substitute for *both* the *English: Writing* and the *English: Reading/Literature/Research* tests. The AP Language and Composition test may be used to earn two English verified units of credit.

Mathematics Substitute Tests

Recommended Changes to Mathematics Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comment
Algebra I	CLEP College Algebra	30	40	
	IB Math Studies (Standard Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	IB Mathematics Methods (Standard Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. Name of test adjusted for accuracy.
	SAT II Math IC	400 500	500 570	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	SAT II Math IIC	400 590	500 660	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	AP Calculus +++++	2	3	
	Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (AICE)	E	D	This is the same test as the Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (A Level). Recommend removal to eliminate duplication.
	Cambridge International Examinations: Mathematics (AICE) (A Level)	E	D	Adjusted name for accuracy.
	Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (A Level)	E	D	
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Additional Mathematics	G E	D	Recommendation to raise cut scores for proficient to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. The recommendation for Advanced remains the same. Name of test adjusted for accuracy.

Recommended Changes to Mathematics Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comment
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Mathematics	G E	D	Recommendation to raise cut scores for proficient to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. The recommendation for Advanced remains the same. Name of test adjusted for accuracy.
	ACT: Mathematics Subtest	18	26	
	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. In addition recommend that the Higher Level may be used as a substitute for to earn <i>two</i> mathematics verified credits.
	ACT PLAN: Mathematics Subtest	16	21	Recommendation is to remove this assessment since its content no longer matches the more rigorous SOL
	TABE Algebra/Geometry Advanced Test—Level A	652	732	Recommendation is to remove this assessment since its content no longer matches the more rigorous SOL
Algebra II	IB Math Studies (Standard Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	IB Mathematics Methods (Standard Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. Name of test adjusted for accuracy.
	SAT II Math IC	400 500	500 570	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	SAT II Math IIC	400 590	500 660	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	AP Calculus +++++	2	3	

Recommended Changes to Mathematics Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comment
	Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (AICE)	E	D	This is the same test as the Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (A Level). Recommend removal to avoid duplication.
	Cambridge International Examinations: Mathematics (AICE) (A Level)	E	D	Name of test adjusted for accuracy.
	Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (A Level)	E	D	
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Additional Mathematics	E	D	Name of test adjusted for accuracy
	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. In addition recommend that the Higher Level may be used as a substitute for to earn <i>two</i> mathematics verified credits.
Geometry	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Mathematics	E	C	Name of test adjusted for accuracy.
	ACT: Mathematics Subtest	18 20	25 27	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. Also recommendation that the Higher Level may be used as a substitute to earn <i>two</i> mathematics verified credits.
	IB Math Studies (Standard Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.

Recommended Changes to Mathematics Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comment
	IB Mathematics Methods (Standard Level)	2 3	3 4	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. Name of test adjusted for accuracy.
	SAT II Math IC	400 500	500 570	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	SAT II Math IIC	400 590	500 660	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	AP Calculus++++	2	3	

++++ The AP Calculus BC test may be used as a substitute to earn *two* mathematics verified units of credit. The AP Calculus AB test may be used to earn only one mathematics verified unit of credit.

Science Substitute Tests

Recommended Changes to the Science Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comments
Earth Science	Cambridge International Examinations: Environmental Science, GCE - AS Level	E	D	
	AP Environmental Science	2	3	
Biology	AP Biology	2	3	
	SAT II Biology Ecological OR Molecular	400 350	500 450	Based on the rigor of the content covered in the SAT II Biology test, the committee recommended lowering the cut scores. Adjustment to the test name is made for clarification.
	CLEP General Biology	30	40	
	IB Biology (Higher Level)	2	3	
	IB Biology (Standard Level)	2	3	
	Cambridge International Examinations: Biology, GCE -A Level	E	D	
	Cambridge International Examinations: Biology, GCE- AS Level	E	D	
Chemistry	AP Chemistry	2	3	
	SAT II Chemistry	400	500	
	CLEP General Chemistry	30 33	40 43	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	IB Chemistry (Higher Level)	2	3	
	IB Chemistry (Standard Level)	2	3	
	Cambridge International Examinations: Chemistry, GCE- A Level	E	D	
	Cambridge International Examinations: Chemistry, GCE - AS Level	E	D	

History and Social Science Substitute Tests

Recommended Changes to the History and Social Science Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comments
US History	AP US History	2	3	
	CLEP History of US I and II (total score for both tests)	60	80	
	SAT II American History	400	500	
	IB US History (Higher Level)	2	3	
World History and Geography from 1500 AD	SAT II World History	400 450	500 530	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
	AP World History	2	3	
	AP European History	2	3	
	IB History of Europe	2	3	
World History and Geography to 1500 AD	SAT II World History	400 450	500 530	Recommendation to raise cut scores to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL.
World Geography	AP Human Geography	2	3	
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Geography	G F	D	Recommendation to raise cut score for proficient to match the requirements of the new more rigorous SOL. Recommendation for Advanced remains the same.
	Cambridge International Examinations: GCE -AS Level	E	C	
	Cambridge International Examinations: GCE -A Level	E	D	
	IB Geography Test	2	3	

Additional Substitute Tests

Recommended Cut Scores for Additional Substitute Tests				
SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced	Comments
EOC Writing	<i>WorkKeys Business Writing</i>	3	4	Because ACT plans to discontinue the <i>WorkKeys Writing</i> test, the <i>WorkKeys Business Writing</i> test was reviewed by the committee as a possible additional substitute test. The test meets or exceeds the content of the SOL covered by the EOC writing test.
EOC Algebra II	CLEP College Algebra	50	63	The committee recommended that this test should be added to the substitute tests for Algebra II since the content of the test meets or exceeds the Algebra II SOL. Note: the test already is on the substitute test list for Algebra I.
EOC Algebra I	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Extended Mathematics	D	C	The committee recommended that this test should be added to the substitute tests for Algebra I since the test matches the SOL.
EOC Geometry	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Extended Mathematics	D	C	The committee recommended that this test should be added to the substitute tests for Geometry since the test matches the SOL.
EOC Algebra I	SAT I Mathematics Subtest	440	520	This test is being added at the request of Chesterfield County Public Schools.
EOC Earth Science	IB Environmental Systems and Society (Standard Level)	2	3	This test is being added at the request of Prince William County Public Schools.
EOC World History and Geography to 1500	AP World History	2	3	This test is being added at the request of Fairfax County Public Schools. It is already on the approved list for World History from 1500 to the Present.