| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
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# Agenda Item: B

## Date: March 17, 2021

### Title: Final Review of Recommended Cut Scores for Substitute Tests for Verified Credit in Reading and Writing

#### Presenter: Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA Programs

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

## Executive Summary:

## The current list of substitute tests approved by the Virginia Board of Education may be found at [Link:http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute\_tests/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute_tests/index.shtml). The substitute tests are used to award verified credit for students, and the scores resulting from them 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 reading tests measuring the 2017 English SOL are being implemented in 2020-2021, the current substitute tests for reading must be reviewed to ensure that they still incorporate or exceed the content of the current SOL and that the adopted cut scores for proficient and advanced are still appropriate. New SOL writing tests based on the 2017 English SOL have not been developed. However, since the previous review of the substitute tests for writing in 2013, ACT has added a writing component in addition to the English test. Based on this change, a review of the ACT test when used to verify credits in writing was needed.

A committee of educators was convened to review the tests and evaluate the previously adopted cut scores for the substitute tests for reading and to recommend cut scores for the revised ACT test for use in verifying credits for writing. In some cases, committee members verified the current cut scores for the substitute tests for reading. In other cases, they recommended revisions to the cut scores for reading. Recommended revisions to the list of approved substitute tests for reading appear in the strikethrough version of the current list in Attachment A. The committee’s recommendation for the cut scores for the revised ACT test when it is used as a substitute test for writing is also included.

## Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education adopt the proposed cut score revisions for the following substitute tests for verified credit in English:

Reading

* Cambridge International Examination: English Language (GCE) - AS Level: C for pass/advanced
* Cambridge International Examinations: Literature in English (IGCSE): the addition of the numeric scale used in other countries: 3 for pass/proficient and 5 for pass/advanced
* IB English Language A: Literature (Standard Level) and IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Standard Level): 4 for pass/advanced
* Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT) Reading Subtest: 23 for pass/advanced

Writing

* ACT: English Subtest: 17 for pass/proficient and 23 for pass/advanced and Writing Subtest: 6 for pass/proficient and 9 for pass/advanced

## Rationale for Action:

## Adopting the revised cut scores at the March 17, 2021, meeting will allow school divisions to begin using these scores to award verified credit to students.

## Previous Review or Action:

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

## **Date:** January 28, 2021

**Action:** First Review

## **Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

The *Regulations Establishing 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 statewide, 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 shall 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 may be found at [Link:http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute\_tests/index.shtml](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 reading tests measuring the 2017 English SOL are being implemented in 2020-2021, the current substitute tests for reading must be reviewed to ensure that they still incorporate or exceed the content of the current SOL and that the adopted cut scores for proficient and advanced are still appropriate. New SOL writing tests based on the 2017 English SOL have not been developed. However, since the previous review of the substitute tests for writing in 2013, ACT has added a writing component. Based on this change, a review of the ACT test when used to verify credits in writing was needed

A committee of educators was convened to review the tests and evaluate the previously adopted cut scores for the substitute tests for reading and to recommend cut scores for the revised ACT test when used to verify credits for writing. In some cases, committee members verified the current cut scores for the substitute tests for reading. In other cases, they recommended revisions to the cut scores for reading. Recommended revisions to the list of approved substitute tests for reading appear in the strikethrough version of the current list in Attachment A. The committee’s recommendation for the cut scores for the revised ACT test when it is used as a substitute test for writing is also included.

## **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

An updated list of cut scores for the approved substitute tests for verified credit in reading and writing will be posted on the Virginia Department of Education website.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

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

# Attachment A

**Substitute Tests for Verified Credit in English**

**Recommendations for Revisions**

**March 17, 2021**

**Substitute Tests Approved for Awarding Verified Credit**

| **Recommended Addition to Writing Substitute Tests** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOL Test** | **Substitute Test** | **Pass/ Proficient** | **Pass/ Advanced** | **Comment** |
| Writing | ACT English AND Writing tests (both administered after 2015) | **English: 17 and**  **Writing: 6** | **English: 23 and**  **Writing: 9** | **The ACT changed its assessment to include a writing component** |

| **Recommended Changes to Reading Substitute Tests** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOL Test** | **Substitute Test** | **Pass/ Proficient** | **Pass/ Advanced** | **Comment** |
| Reading | ACT Reading Subtest | 17 | 22 |  |
| Reading | ACT WorkKeys Reading for Information or ACT WorkKeys Workplace Documents | 4 | 6 |  |
| Reading | AP English Literature and Composition + | 2 | 3 |  |
| Reading | AP English Language and Composition + | 2 | 3 |  |
| Reading | Cambridge International Examination: English Language (GCE) - AS Level | E | ~~D~~ **C** | **Revised scores more closely reflect the expectations for advanced achievement** |
| Reading | Cambridge International Examination: Literature in English (GCE) - A Level | E | D |  |
| Reading | Cambridge International Examinations: Literature in English (IGCSE) | E **or 3** | C **or 5** | **Revision acknowledges that IGCSE also has a numeric scale**. |
| Reading | IB English Language A: Literature (Higher Level)+ | 2 | 3 |  |
| Reading | IB English Language A: Literature (Standard Level) + | 2 | **~~3~~ 4** | **Revised scores more closely reflect the expectations for advanced achievement** |
| Reading | IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Higher Level) + | 2 | 3 |  |
| Reading | IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Standard Level) + | 2 | **~~3~~ 4** | **Revised scores more closely reflect the expectations for advanced achievement** |
| Reading | PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 Reading Test (administered beginning March 2016) | 21 | 31 |  |
| Reading | SAT Reading Test | 21 | 30 |  |
| Reading | Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT) Reading Subtest | 16 | **~~21~~ 23** | **Revised scores more closely reflect the expectations for advanced achievement** |

+ Students may use this test to earn two verified credits in English.