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| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |

# Agenda Item: G

## Date: January 23, 2020

### Title: First Review of the Proposed Revisions to the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts* (8 VAC 20-160-10, et. seq)

#### Presenter: Dr. Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Special Education and Student Services

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

**Executive Summary:**Changes in professional practice at postsecondary institutions and business and industry necessitated revisions to the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts*
(8VAC20-160-10, et. seq). The Board of Education will propose revisions that best serve the students of the Commonwealth by aligning elements contained in the student transcript with the needs and demands of postsecondary partners.

The last full revision to the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts* was approved by the Board of Education in 2007.

In May 2016, the Board of Education approved an amendment to the wording of
8VAC20-160-30, Item #25, of the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts*, to add an opt-out policy to allow flexibility for certain students who did not want standardized test scores sent to postsecondary institutions. The amendment to add the opt-out policy was a result of numerous educator and constituent calls expressing concerns with the mandate to send standardized test scores as a part of the official transcript.

The revision supports the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, and *Priority 3* of the *Comprehensive Plan*, by providing accurate and meaningful transcript information to show students have gained the knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences during their K-12 education to make them “life-ready” and be on a path to successful citizenship and participation in the evolving global economy.

## Action Requested:

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

## March 19, 2020

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends the Board of Education receive, for first review, the proposed revisions to the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts.*

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**
The last comprehensive revision to the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts* was made by the Board of Education in 2007. Changes in professional practice and postsecondary expectations warrant a revision to align with the needs of our students, parents, and postsecondary stakeholders.

In May 2016, the Board of Education approved an amendment to the wording of
8VAC20-160-30, Item #25, of the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts*, to add an opt-out policy to allow flexibility for certain students who did not want standardized test scores sent to postsecondary institutions.

The need for revisions is necessitated by educator and constituent calls expressing concern with outdated language and programs, as well as the need to clarify how specific transcript elements such as absences, previous schools attended, and course work are listed.

Superintendent Memorandum[**#**133-18](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2018/133-18.shtml) was released May 21, 2018, to address some of the urgent issues and stated that the revision process for the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts* would begin in 2019.

The Notice of Intent for Regulatory Action (NOIRA) was approved by the Board of Education at the July 25, 2019, meeting. The NOIRA was published for public comment on September 16, 2019, and closed on October 16, 2019. There were no public comments received through Town Hall or submitted through the Board of Education’s email address.

The Board of Education’s authority for promulgating regulations governing standards for accrediting public schools may be found in § 22.1-253.13:3 of the *Code of Virginia*.

“The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for accreditation pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ [2.2-4000](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/2.2-4000/) et seq.), which shall include, but not be limited to, student outcome measures, requirements and guidelines for instructional programs and for the integration of educational technology into such instructional programs, administrative and instructional staffing levels and positions, including staff positions for supporting educational technology, student services, auxiliary education programs such as library and media services, course and credit requirements for graduation from high school, community relations, and the philosophy, goals, and objectives of public education in Virginia.”

The Board’s overall regulatory authority may be found in § 22.1-16. of the *Code of Virginia*: “The Board of Education may adopt bylaws for its own government and promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out its powers and duties and the provisions of this title.”

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**
Upon approval by the Board of first review to the proposed revisions to the *Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts*, the final review of the revision will be scheduled for the March 19, 2020, Board meeting.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

No significant fiscal or human resource impact is expected for school divisions or the Department. The VDOE staff members will provide technical assistance to school divisions through website documents and training events.