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

## Date: November 19, 2020

### Title: First Review of Proposed Revisions to the *World Language Standards of Learning*

#### Presenter: Dr. Lisa A. Harris, Specialist for World Languages and International Education

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

**Executive Summary:**On January 23, 2020, the Board of Education approved the timeline for reviewing the current standards. Upon approval of the timetable, the following actions occurred:

* Received public comment on the 2014 *World Language Standards of Learning;*
* Identified World Language Standards of Learning Revision team members;
* Met virtually for four days on July 20-July 23, 2020 with members of the review teams that consisted of recommended individuals solicited from school divisions, to review the public comments and to consider recommendations and reports from stakeholder groups;
* Developed a draft of the proposed revised *World Language Standards of Learning;* and
* Convened an external review team comprised of stakeholders from across the K-20 education field and representatives from state language organizations to solicit feedback on the proposed revisions.

The proposed revisions to the *World Language Standards of Learning* were drafted in consultation with a wide variety of constituents. The various concerns and priorities of those constituents have been incorporated whenever possible within the proposed draft of the 2021 *World Language Standards of Learning.* A strikethrough version of the 2014 *World Language Standards of Learning* is presented in Attachment A. Due to the extensive format changes, the entire contents of the 2014 standards have been stricken, and a clean version of the draft proposed revised standards are shown in Attachment B.

During the initial public comment period on the 2014 standards, 31 comments were received electronically. No comments were received via U.S. Mail. The main themes that emerged in a review of the public comments included recommendations to:

* align the standards to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency bands instead of aligning to course levels;
* group the standards by language families instead of individual languages;
* create standards for American Sign Language (ASL), elementary, Dual Language/ Immersion (DL/I) and heritage speaker programs;
* expand language targets; and
* add more resources and guidance for implementation.

Public comment was carefully considered and suggestions were incorporated into the draft standards as appropriate.

**Summary of the Proposed Revised *World Language Standards of Learning***

The major elements of the attached proposed revised *World Language Standards of Learning* include:

* Alignment with proficiency bands for novice, intermediate, and advanced with sub-levels of low, mid, and high within each major level.
* Inclusive standards for all languages within three major language families:
	+ Modern World Languages,
	+ Classical Languages (Latin, Ancient Greek), and
	+ Visual Languages (American Sign Language).
* Standards organized in strands by the three modes of communication with an added strand for communicative literacy.
* Progress indicators for the three major language families, as well as elementary, dual language, and heritage language programs.
* Correlations of the world language progress indicators to the Virginia 5 Cs and explicit connections to the Profile of a Graduate.
* Sample exit proficiency levels at various time points.

The Committee has also made recommendations for the development of supporting documents to address other concerns raised by the field and to supplement the *World Language Standards of Learning.*

**Action Requested:**

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

## March 18, 2021 Superintendent’s Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends the Board of Education receive for first review the proposed revised *World Language Standards of Learning*

## Previous Review or Action:

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

Date: January 23, 2020

Action: Accepted the report on the *Timeline for the Review and Approval of the Revised World Language Standards of Learning.*

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**
*Code of Virginia*, Section 22.1-253.13:1-B… “The Board of Education shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary of the Standards of Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent basis…”

The 2014 *World Language Standards of Learning* were adopted by the Board of Education on May 22, 2014. The current standards may be viewed online at <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/foreign_language/index.shtml>

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**
Following first review, the Board will host a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed revisions. A Superintendents’ Memo will be posted announcing the public hearing and the opening of a 30-day public comment period to begin on December 1, 2020. Final review is anticipated at the March 18, 2021, meeting.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The VDOE administers the state standards review process. The agency’s existing resources can absorb the responsibility of the review at this time.