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

## Date: October 17, 2019

### Title: Final Review of Proposed Revisions to the *Standards of Quality*

#### Presenter: Mr. Zachary Robbins, Director of Policy

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

## Executive Summary: The Constitution of Virginia ([Article VIII, § 2](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article8/section2)) requires the Board of Education to prescribe standards of quality for the public schools of Virginia, subject to revision only by the General Assembly. These standards, found in the *Code of Virginia* at §§ [22.1-253.13:1](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-253.13:1/) through [22.1-253.13:10](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13:10/), are known as the *Standards of Quality* (SOQ) and provide the foundational program for public education in Virginia. Every two years, as required by § [22.1-18.01](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter2/section22.1-18.01/) of the *Code*, the Board of Education reviews the SOQ and proposes amendments as necessary.

Following significant review and public engagement, proposed revisions to the Standards of Quality are attached for the Board’s consideration.

The 2019 review of the SOQ addresses all three of the Board’s priorities as identified in the [*Virginia Board of Education Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023*](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/plan/index.shtml). These SOQs promote educational equity (Priority 1) by establishing the resources required to fully support a system of quality education for all students, regardless of background, including wrap-around services and other programs to increase opportunities for all students to succeed. Additionally, these standards support educator recruitment, development and retention (Priority 2) by promoting the equitable allocation of resources and high-quality personnel and the implementation of teacher mentorship programs. Finally, the proposed revisions support the implementation of the *Profile of a Virginia Graduate* and the revised school accountability system (Priority 3) by deploying resources necessary to support continuous improvement and alignment with higher education and workforce needs.

## Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends the Board of Education approve the 2019 proposed revisions to the *Standards of Quality* for submission to the Governor and General Assembly.

## Previous Review or Action:

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

Date: July 25, 2019

Action: First Review

Date: September 19, 2019

Action:Second Review

Background Information and Statutory Authority:   
Article [VIII, § 2](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article8/section2) of the *Constitution of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to determine and prescribe *Standards of Quality* for the public schools in Virginia:

“Standards of quality for the several school divisions shall be determined and prescribed from time to time by the Board of Education, subject to revision only by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall determine the manner in which funds are to be provided for the cost of maintaining an educational program meeting the prescribed standards of quality, and shall provide for the apportionment of the cost of such program between the Commonwealth and the local units of government comprising such school divisions. Each unit of local government shall provide its portion of such cost by local taxes or from other available funds.”

Section 22.1-18.01(A) of the *Code of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to review the *Standards of Quality* every two years:

“A. To ensure the integrity of the standards of quality, the Board of Education shall, in odd-numbered years, exercise its constitutional authority to determine and prescribe the standards, subject to revision only by the General Assembly, by reviewing the standards and either (i) proposing amendments to the standards or (ii) making a determination that no changes are necessary…”

In addition, § 22.1-18 of the *Code* requires the Board’s annual report to the Governor and General Assembly to include any recommendations for revisions to the *Standards of Quality*. Section 22.1-18 states, in part:

“…[T]he Board of Education shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report on the condition and needs of public education in the Commonwealth and shall identify any school divisions and the specific schools therein that have failed to establish and maintain schools meeting the existing prescribed standards of quality. Such standards of quality shall be subject to revision only by the General Assembly, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Virginia. Such report shall include…[a] complete listing of the current standards of quality for the Commonwealth's public schools, together with a justification for each particular standard, how long each such standard has been in its current form, and whether the Board recommends any change or addition to the standards of quality…”

On August 7, 1971, the Board of Education adopted the first *Standards of Quality* (SOQ). They were revised by the General Assembly in 1972 and adopted as uncodified Acts of Assembly. In 1974, they were revised into eight standards. In 1984, they were codified by the General Assembly, and in 1988 they were arranged into their current format.

The Board of Education revised its bylaws in October 2001 to require the Board to “determine the need for a review of the SOQ from time to time but no less than once every two years. The Standing Committee on the Standards of Quality was created by resolution of the Board of Education in November 2001 and held its first meeting in January 2002. It completed its work on its first set of recommendations in June 2003 for consideration by the 2004 General Assembly.

The Board commenced this 2019 review of the SOQ in the fall of 2018. The Board has continued the SOQ review regularly since that time at the following meetings, with public comment opportunities available at most of the meetings

* Board Work Session – November 14, 2018
* Board Work Session – January 23, 2019
* Committee on the Standards of Quality meeting – March 20, 2019
* Board Work Session – April 24, 2019
* Committee on the Standards of Quality meeting – June 19, 2019
* Committee on the Standards of Quality meeting – July 24, 2019
* Board Business Meeting – July 25, 2019 – First review at this meeting
* Committee on the Standards of Quality meeting – September 18, 2019
* Board Business Meeting – September 19, 2019 – Second review at this meeting

The Board hosted meetings across the Commonwealth during May and June 2019 to solicit feedback on the draft SOQ proposals from representatives of various stakeholder groups. Four focus group meetings and public hearings were held in Marion, Farmville, Manassas, and Yorktown. Members of the public were invited to address the Board at the conclusion of each focus group hearing. The following organizations were invited to participate in the focus group meetings:

* Virginia School Board Association
* Virginia Association of Counties
* Virginia Association of School Superintendents
* Virginia Association of School Nurses
* Virginia Association of School Social Workers
* Virginia School Counselor Association
* Virginia Academy of School Psychologists
* Virginia Education Association
* Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers (Virginia PTA)
* Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals
* Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals
* Virginia Association of School Curriculum Development
* Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education

The Board hosted a meeting with various stakeholders on June 6, 2019 in Richmond. The following organizations were invited to participate: Virginia Chamber of Commerce; Virginia NAACP; Virginia Hispanic Chamber; Virginia Business Council; Virginia Asian Chamber; Virginia ACLU; Virginia Association of Realtors; First Cities Coalition; Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association; Just Children; Voice’s for Virginia’s Children.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:   
Upon Board approval and any technical or editorial edits by Department staff, the revised *Standards of Quality* will be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The anticipated fiscal impacts of each of the proposed revisions to the *Standards of Quality* are noted in the attached document.