



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: O

Date: July 25, 2025

Title: First and Final Review of Removal of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) to Comply with Chapter 729 of the 2024 Acts of the Assembly

Presenter: Rob Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Education Preparation

Purpose of Presentation

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Executive Summary

[Chapter 729 \(HB 731\)](#) of the 2024 Acts of the Assembly requires that the Board of Education (“Board”) “eliminate the requirement for any individual to take and receive a passing score on the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment [“VCLA”] as a condition of the initial award or renewal of a renewable license as a teacher in the Commonwealth.” [Chapter 729](#) requires the Board to revise guidance documents to comply with the requirement to eliminate the VCLA.

The [Guidelines for Prescribed Professional Teacher’s Examinations](#) includes assessments prescribed by the Board for licensure, including passing scores on the VCLA as set by the Board. Attachment 1 is a revised version of the [Guidelines for Prescribed Professional Teacher’s Examinations](#) to remove the VCLA as an assessment prescribed by the Board. The revised version of the guidance document will be submitted to Town Hall in accordance with the Administrative Process Act.

In November 2005, the Board passed [Resolution 2005-23](#) (included as Attachment 2), which provides a waiver so that individuals who graduated from Virginia approved programs prior to December 31, 2006, and who have taken and passed the Praxis I (ACT or SAT); Praxis II, and the Virginia Reading Assessment would not be required to take and pass the VCLA. This resolution is currently a Board guidance document on Town Hall. Since Chapter 729 requires the Board to

eliminate the requirement that any individual take and receive a passing score on the VCLA, the guidance document may be repealed.

Action Requested

First and Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the removal of the VCLA to comply with Chapter 729.

Rationale for Action

This action is necessary to comply with legislation.

Previous Review or Action

No previous review or action.

Background Information and Statutory Authority

[Chapter 729 \(HB 731\)](#) of the 2024 Acts of the Assembly requires that the Board of Education (“Board”) “eliminate the requirement for any individual to take and receive a passing score on the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment [“VCLA”] as a condition of the initial award or renewal of a renewable license as a teacher in the Commonwealth.”

Stakeholder Engagement

There has been no stakeholder engagement by the Board or VDOE staff because this action is required to comply with [Chapter 729 \(HB 731\)](#). There were two public comments on this topic at the Board’s May 2024 meeting.

Implementation and Communication

After approval by the Board, the revised guidance document will be submitted to the Virginia Register of Regulations for a 30-day public comment period in accordance with the Administrative Process Act.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

This item will not have an impact on fiscal or human resources.