

# **Division Director of Testing Regional Meeting Fall 2018**

Testing Requirements under ESSA and  
the 2017 SOA

# ESSA Testing Requirements

- Under ESSA students must be tested in reading and mathematics annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school.
- Schools that do not test 95% of their students in reading and mathematics will be required to submit a plan to the Virginia Department of Education. Participation rates in will also be reported on the ESSA tab in the School Quality Profile
- In science students must be tested once in elementary school, once in middle school, and once in high school.
- School divisions that do not test 95% of their students in science do not have to submit a plan. Participation rates in science will be reported on the ESSA tab in the School Quality Profile

# Change in Approved Tests from NCLB to ESSA

- Under the No Child Left Behind Act Virginia was approved to use all three of its end-of-course test in mathematics, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and all three end-of-course tests, Earth Science, Biology, and Chemistry to meet federal accountability requirements.
- USED has now required Virginia to select one end-of-course test in each subject area to be used for federal accountability. Virginia selected
  - Algebra I as the high school mathematics test,
  - Biology as the science test, and
  - End-of-course reading test for reading.
- Cohort rates will be used to calculate participation and performance for high school reading, mathematics, and science

# ESSA Waiver for High School Mathematics

- The United States Department of Education has granted Virginia a waiver so that students who have completed Algebra I in the middle school may take the Geometry or Algebra II test high school to meet the federal accountability requirements.
- An additional approved waiver allows students who have completed Geometry and Algebra II in middle school to use an SAT, ACT, AP, or IB score in mathematics to meet the federal accountability requirement.

# Additional ESSA Waiver Request

- Information Included in Supts Memo No. 230-18, August, 24, 2018
  - In a previously approved waiver request, Virginia was granted permission to allow students who pass all EOC mathematics tests prior to their ninth grade year to take a substitute mathematics test (AP, IB, SAT, or ACT) to meet the participation requirement. The substitute test will count towards the school's pass and participation rates. Virginia's proposed waiver request, if granted, would expand this practice to allow additional testing options for high school reading, mathematics, and science. Specifically, the waiver would request the following:
    - To allow any EOC mathematics test or certain substitute mathematics tests (AP, IB, SAT, or ACT) to count towards the high school's pass and participation rates for mathematics;
    - To allow either the EOC reading or certain substitute English/reading tests (AP, IB, SAT, or ACT) to count towards the high school's pass and participation rates for reading; and
    - To allow any EOC science test or certain substitute science tests (AP, IB, SAT, or ACT) to count towards the high school's pass and participation rates for science.

# Testing Requirements under the 2017 SOA: Grade 3-8

Achievement Expectations section of the SOA at 8VAC20-131-30.

B. In kindergarten through eighth grade, where the administration of Virginia Assessment Program tests is required by the board, each student shall be expected to take the tests following instruction. Students who are accelerated shall take the test aligned with the highest grade level, following instruction in the content. No student shall take more than one test in any content area in each year, except in the case of expedited retakes as provided for in this section.

# Testing Requirements under the 2017 SOA: End-of-Course

Achievement Expectations section of the SOA at 8VAC20-131-30

E. Each student in middle and secondary schools shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction. The division superintendent shall certify to the Department of Education that the division's policy for dropping courses ensures that students' course schedules are not changed to avoid end-of-course SOL tests. Students who achieve a passing score on an end-of-course SOL test shall be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course in accordance with the provisions of [8VAC20-131-110](#). Students may earn verified units of credit in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available. Students shall not be required to take an end-of-course SOL test in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for graduation, unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements. Middle and secondary schools may consider the student's end-of-course SOL test score in determining the student's final course grade. However, no student who has failed an end-of-course SOL test but passed the related course shall be prevented from taking any other course in a content area and from taking the applicable end-of-course SOL test. The board may approve additional tests to verify student achievement in accordance with guidelines adopted for verified units of credit described in [8VAC20-131-110](#).

# Testing Requirements

- Based on the SOA language, students who are enrolled in courses that have end-of-course tests must take the tests unless they have already earned the number of verified credits in that content area needed for graduation.
- However, even if the student has earned the number of verified credits in the content area needed for graduation, the student will be expected to take tests in mathematics, reading, and science required for federal accountability.



# Application of ESSA and SOA Testing Requirements: Mathematics

- Under ESSA students must take a mathematics test at the high school level for federal accountability.
- Virginia has selected the Algebra I test as the high school mathematics test.
- Students who have completed the Algebra I course and passed the test in the middle school must take the Geometry or Algebra II SOL test at the high school level. These students have earned a verified credit in mathematics in middle school, but are required to take a mathematics test at the high school to meet federal accountability requirements.
- Virginia has received a waiver from USED to allow students who have also passed the Geometry and the Algebra II tests at middle school level to use scores from the SAT, ACT, International Baccalaureate, or Advanced Placement tests in mathematics to meet the ESSA testing requirement.

# Application of ESSA and SOA

## Testing Requirements: Science

- Under ESSA students must take a science test at the high school level.
- Virginia has selected the Biology test as the high school science test.
- In many school divisions, Earth Science is taught before Biology. Therefore, a student who has passed Earth Science and the associated SOL test has earned a verified credit in science. However, Biology has been identified as the science test used for federal accountability.
- While ESSA does not require schools to develop a plan if they do not test 95% of their students in science, the participation rate will be reported on the ESSA tab of the School Quality Profile.

# Application of ESSA and SOA

## Testing Requirements: Reading

- All students must take the SOL end-of-course reading test to meet federal accountability requirements
- Students may earn a verified credit in reading using a substitute test but no substitute tests are currently approved for use in federal accountability.

# Application of SOA Testing Requirements: History

- The administration of history/social science tests is not required under ESSA and history/social science is no longer a part of the school accreditation ratings.
- However, students are still required to earn verified credits in history to meet graduation requirements. Students must take SOL end-of-course tests in history until they have earned the required number of verified credits.
- In addition, the Virginia Studies and Civics & Economics tests are still part of the Virginia Assessment Program and must be administered

# Implementing the Verified Credit Requirements

## Scenario:

- A student has not yet earned the required number of verified credits in a subject area.
- The student is enrolled in a class with an SOL EOC test.

## Question:

- Must the school division administer the EOC test? OR
- May the school division choose to “skip” administering this test and use an SOL test administered later in the student’s career to verify the credit?

# Implementing the Verified Credit Requirements

Answer (based on the SOA Achievement Expectations language):

The student must be administered the EOC test because he/ she has not yet earned the required number of verified credits.

The school division may not “skip” this test and administer a test later in the course-taking sequence to verify the credit.

# SOA: Student-Selected Verified Credit

- Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time prior to 2018-2019 must earn a “student-selected” verified credit.
- School divisions have asked if students can choose which test they wish to use to meet this requirement or if they must continue to be administered SOL end-of-course tests until they have met the requirement.

# **Implementation Challenges: Questions and Suggestions from DDOTs**