



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: November 30, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Additional Guidance: Testing Requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act and the 2017 Standards of Accreditation**

This memo provides additional guidance, as referenced in [Superintendent's Memo #299-18](#) dated October 19, 2018, for school divisions regarding whether a student may be permitted to take an end-of-course Standards of Learning (SOL) test after the student has earned the required verified credits for graduation and met the federal testing requirements.

As a reminder, the revised 2017 Standards of Accreditation (SOA) requirements for testing students who are enrolled in classes with end-of-course SOL tests are: (**Emphasis added**).

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](#).

Once a student has earned the required verified credits for graduation and met the federal testing requirements, the student is *not* to be administered additional end-of-course tests. Parents may, however, request that their student complete an end-of-course test beyond the required assessments by providing affirmative parental consent (“opt-in”) to the school division. Parents must submit their request in writing along with their affirmative consent for the administration of each end-of-course test requested beyond the required assessments. It is to be made clear to the parent and student that not completing additional end-of-course tests (i.e., tests beyond those needed to earn required verified credits for graduation and to meet federal testing requirements) will *not* impact the student’s grade or academic record. Prior to the administration of any additional end-of-course test to the student, the school division shall obtain and maintain written documentation of the parent’s request and affirmative consent to complete each additional end-of-course test.

It should be noted that end-of-course tests administered at the request of parents after the student has earned the required verified credits for graduation and met the federal testing requirements will *not* be included in calculations for state accreditation or federal accountability. Additional details regarding the identification of parent-requested end-of-course tests will be provided to division directors of testing.

Questions regarding testing requirements should be addressed to the student assessment staff at student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2102.

JFL/SLR/sw