# Agenda Item: B

## Date: June 15, 2023

## Title: First and Final Review of Proposed Amendment 6 to Virginia’s Consolidated State Plan

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## Purpose of Presentation

Action required by state or federal law or regulation

## Executive Summary

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is presenting to the Virginia Board of Education (board) proposed Amendment 6 to [Virginia’s Consolidated State Plan](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/40562/638078265189700000) (CSP), which is required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeed Act.  The proposed revision to the CSP changes the methodology for determining student growth when calculating the rates for the **federal** growth indicators in reading and mathematics, beginning in school year 2022-2023.

In December 2022, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved [Amendment 5 to Virginia’s Consolidated State Plan](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/40562/638078265189700000). Amendment 5 includes the growth methodology that was in place during the 2021-2022 school year (comparison of spring 2021 state assessment results to spring 2022 state assessment results; and fall 2021 growth assessment results to spring 2022 state assessment results, if necessary). Communication from USED indicated that the use of two comparisons in the growth determination methodology could only be approved for the 2021-2022 school year based on flexibility related to the pandemic. Therefore, a revision to the methodology is required for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

Additionally, in April 2023, [the Virginia Board of Education (board) approved a growth methodology for state accreditation](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44103/638174267772030000) beginning in school year 2022-2023. This was because, in part, the methodology used to calculate growth for school year 2021-2022 was outdated due to changes in the growth assessments in school year 2022-2023. The proposed growth methodology in Amendment 6, which is used to determine whether students who failed the state assessments demonstrated growth, is the same as the methodology approved by the board in April 2023 for state accreditation. Specifically, in **Amendment 6 for federal accountability,** the growth indicators for reading and mathematics will include:

* Grades 3 through 8 students who pass the reading or mathematics state assessments (Standards of Learning (SOL) tests or Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) tests) in the current year.
* Grades 4-8 students who have failed the previous year state test and the current year state test (SOL or VAAP) and demonstrated growth using a progress table methodology that compares the student’s previous year test score to the student’s current year test score.
* Grade 3 students who have failed the current year SOL test and demonstrated growth using a progress table methodology that compares the student’s fall growth assessment score to the student’s current year SOL test score.

As per [Superintendent’s Memorandum 089-23](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44545/638194032575600000), dated May 11, 2023, Amendment 6 was posted to the Virginia Department of Education website to collect public comment. There were few public comments, but the comments received were in support of the amendment. In addition, the Committee of Practitioners met on May 17, 2023 to review the amendment, and also supported the use of the methodology outlined in Amendment 6.

The proposed Amendment 6 to the CSP is attached as Attachment 1. The changes made are on page 18 of the document.

## Action Requested

Action requested at this meeting.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve Amendment 6 to the Consolidated State Plan.

## Rationale for Action

This action is necessary in order to align the growth determination methodology used for federal accountability with [the methodology approved by the Board at its meeting April 20, 2023](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44103/638174267772030000). The current methodology in the CSP must be changed to meet federal guidelines, and in addition, the current methodology is outdated due to changes in the growth assessments administered in 2022-2023.

## Previous Review or Action

* No previous review or action.

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## Background Information and Statutory Authority

[Virginia’s federal accountability system](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/data-policy-funding/data-reports/statistics-reports/accreditation-federal-reports/federal-accountability#:~:text=this%20link.-,Federal%20Accountability%20Indicators,-Some%20federal%20accountability) uses performance on 8 indicators to identify a school for federal support. Two of the indicators (considered the “Other Academic Indicators” in the plan) are *Growth: Reading* and *Growth: Mathematics*. The growth indicators include students who pass the state assessments, and students who fail the state assessments but demonstrate growth.

In December 2022, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved [Amendment 5 to Virginia’s Consolidated State Plan](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/40562/638078265189700000). Amendment 5 includes the growth methodology that was in place during the 2021-2022 school year (comparison of spring 2021 state assessment results to spring 2022 state assessment results; and fall 2021 growth assessment results to spring 2022 state assessment results, if necessary). Communication from USED indicated that the use of two comparisons in the growth determination methodology could only be approved for the 2021-2022 school year based on flexibility related to the pandemic. Therefore, a revision to the methodology is required for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

The new growth methodology is outlined in Amendment 6:

The “Other Academic Indicator” for elementary and secondary schools that are not high schools is a measure of academic growth derived from state assessment data. Using this measure, grades 3 through 8 students who pass the state assessments in reading or mathematics in the current year are deemed to have made growth. In addition, students who do not pass the current year and previous year state assessments but do show growth from the previously administered assessment to the current year assessment are also included in the rate.

Virginia uses a progress table methodology to determine growth for students who fail the state assessments. Progress tables are organized by test level (rows) and assessment score ranges (columns). Specifically:

For a grade 4-8 student to demonstrate growth for accountability purposes, the student must have failed the previous year’s SOL or Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) test and the current year’s SOL or VAAP test, and then advanced at least one range on the progress table when comparing the scores on the previous and current year tests.

For a grade 3 student to demonstrate growth for accountability purposes, the student must have failed the current year’s SOL test and then advanced at least one range on the progress table when comparing the current year fall growth assessment score to the current spring SOL test score.

Because students are administered state assessments for the first time in grade 3, there is not a previous year test score to use as a “starting point” in the comparison. Therefore, for grade 3 students, the fall growth assessment score will be the “starting point.”

For information on the reasons for adopting the year-to-year growth methodology in the state accreditation system (with the exception of grade 3, which is based on a comparison between the fall growth assessment score and the current spring SOL test score), see [the item approved by the Board at its meeting April 20, 2023](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44103/638174267772030000).

## Stakeholder Engagement

As per [Superintendent’s Memorandum 089-23](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44545/638194032575600000), dated May 11, 2023, Amendment 6 was posted to the Virginia Department of Education website to collect public comment. There were few public comments, but the comments received were in support of the amendment.

In addition, Amendment 6 was reviewed by the Committee of Practitioners on May 17, 2023 to solicit stakeholder feedback. The committee was unanimously supportive of the methodology. The general feedback was that it made sense to align the federal and accreditation growth methodologies so that it is not confusing to divisions. There were other comments made regarding the use of through-year growth assessments and the use of growth in the combined rate. Those comments will be considered when the accountability system is reformed.

## Implementation and Communication

After approval, Department staff will send Amendment 6 to USED for approval.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

There are not any fiscal or human resource impacts that will occur based on the board’s decision.