# Agenda Item: C

## Date: July 25, 2023

## Title: Overview Presentation of the Standard of Quality

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## Purpose of Presentation

For information only. Action will be requested at a future meeting

## Executive Summary

[Article VIII, Section 2](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article8/section2) of the *Constitution of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to prescribe *Standards of Quality* for the public schools of Virginia, subject to revision only by the General Assembly. The Standards of Quality (SOQ), found in the *Code of Virginia* at [§§ 22.1-253.13:1 through 22.1-253.13:9](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/), provide the foundational program for public education in Virginia. ​[Section 22.1-18.01](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter2/section22.1-18.01/) of the *Code of Virginia* states “[t]o 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.​”

On October 21, 2021, the Board of Education prescribed revisions to the SOQ for the Commonwealth’s public schools. 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 of Virginia*, the Board reviews the Standard of Quality for potential revisions. In accordance with this process, staff has attached a presentation on the history of the Standard of Quality and an overview on the process to prescribe changes to the Standard of Quality.

## Action Requested

No action requested.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the presentation and engage in a discussion on SOQ prescriptions.

## Previous Review or Action

No previous review or action.

## Background Information and Statutory Authority

[Article VIII, Section 2](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article8/section2) of the *Constitution of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to prescribe *Standards of Quality* for the public schools of Virginia. Section [22.1-18.01](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter2/section22.1-18.01/) of the *Code of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to review the *Standards of Quality* every two years.

**Authority:**

*Constitution of Virginia*

Article VIII. Education

Section 2. Standards of quality; State and local support of public schools

“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.”

***Code of Virginia***

**§ 22.1-18.01. Biennial review of the standards of quality required; budget estimates.**

“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.”

## Implementation and Communication

* The Department of Education staff will return to the Board with future agenda items based on Board discussion and direction.
* Department of Education staff will develop a plan for stakeholder input and to inform stakeholders of proposed changes based on Board discussion and direction.

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## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

Fiscal determinations are indeterminate at this time.