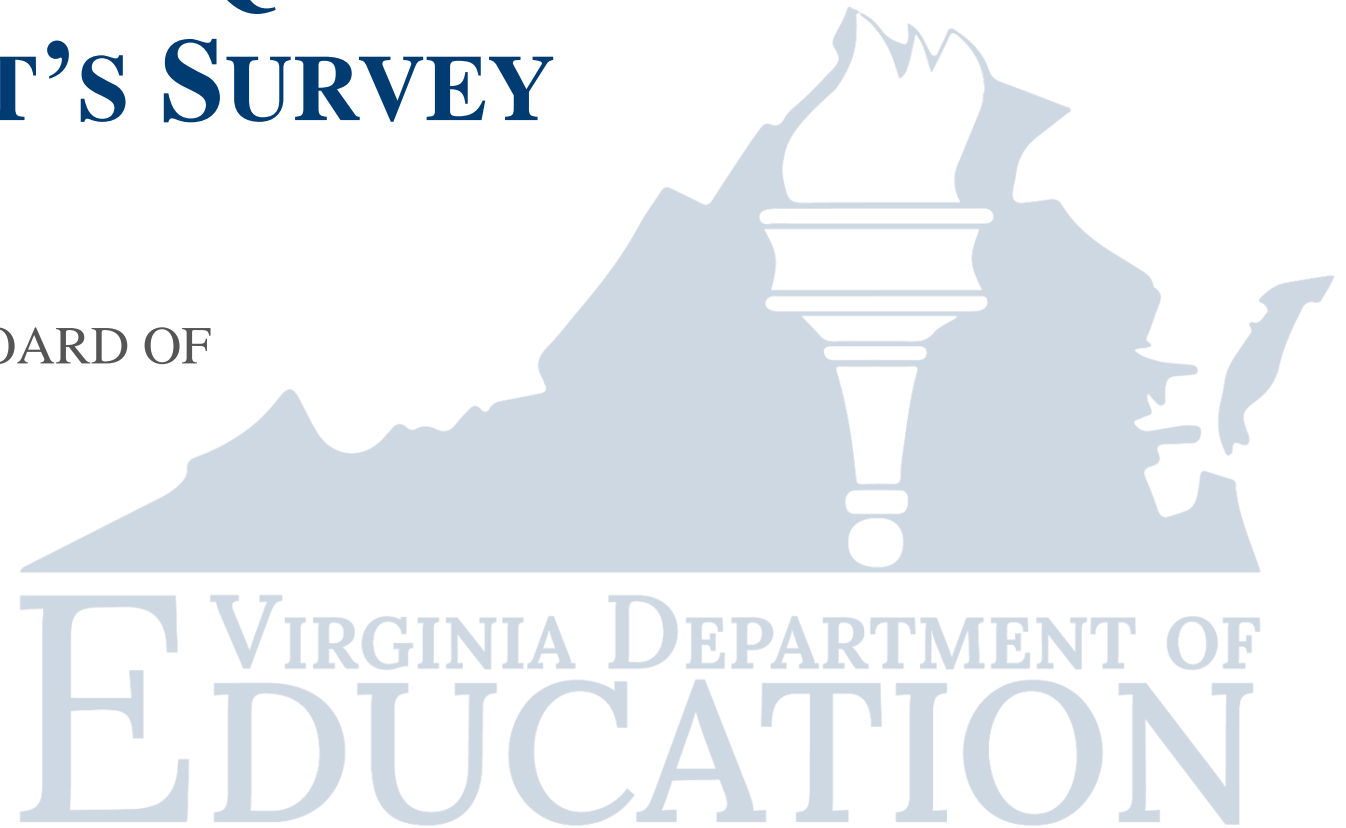


# 2023 STANDARDS OF QUALITY: SUPERINTENDENT'S SURVEY RESPONSE

PRESENTED TO THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

October 18, 2023



# STANDARDS OF QUALITY (SOQ) BACKGROUND

- The Constitution of Virginia ([Article VIII, § 2](#)) requires the Board of Education to prescribe Standards of Quality (SOQ) for the public schools of Virginia, subject to revision only by the General Assembly.
- The SOQ, found in the *Code of Virginia* at §§ [22.1-253.13:1](#) through [22.1-253.13:9](#), encompass the requirements that must be met by all Virginia public schools and school divisions.
- Every two years, as required by the *Code*, the Board of Education reviews the SOQ for necessary revisions.
- In conducting the review, the board seeks public comment including suggestions and concerns of educators, parents, students, employers, civic and community leaders, and other interested citizens in addressing the needs, priorities, and programs in public schools across Virginia.

# STANDARDS OF QUALITY (SOQ) BACKGROUND

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

“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.”

Article VIII, § 2, Constitution of Virginia

# STANDARDS OF QUALITY (SOQ) BACKGROUND

## BOARD'S ROLE WITH THE SOQ

Section 22.1-18.01 of the *Code* states the following:

- 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.
  
- B. If the Board proposes changes to the standards of quality, the budget estimates that are required to be reported pursuant to § 2.2-1504 shall take into consideration the Board's proposed standards of quality.

# SOQ SURVEY RESPONSE INTRO

- The survey was sent out to all superintendents in the Commonwealth. 55% of divisions (72) submitted a response.

Colonial Beach  
Chesterfield County  
Charlotte County  
Carroll County  
Caroline County  
Campbell County  
Buena Vista City  
Bristol City  
Botetourt County  
Bedford County  
Bath County  
Augusta County  
Amherst County  
Amelia County  
Alleghany Highlands

Henry County  
Henrico County  
Harrisonburg City  
Hanover County  
Grayson County  
Giles County  
Galax City  
Fredericksburg City  
Frederick County  
Franklin County  
Fluvanna County  
Floyd County  
Dinwiddie County  
Dickenson County  
Danville City  
Colonial Heights City

Petersburg City  
Patrick County  
New Kent County  
Montgomery County  
Middlesex County  
Mecklenburg County  
Martinsville City  
Manassas Park City  
Manassas City  
Madison County  
Louisa County  
King and Queen County  
King George County  
Isle of Wight County  
Highland County

Staunton City  
Stafford County  
Southampton County  
Scott County  
Salem County  
Roanoke City  
Richmond City  
Rappahannock County  
Radford City  
Pulaski County  
Powhatan County  
Portsmouth City  
Pittsylvania County

Russel County  
Orange County  
Cumberland County  
York County  
Wythe County  
Wise County  
Winchester County  
Williamsburg-James City County  
Westmoreland County  
Washington County  
Warren County  
Virginia Beach County  
Tazewell County  
Surry County

# 2019 SURVEY RESPONSES

	<b>Score</b>	<b>Top 1</b>	<b>Top 3</b>
Reading Specialists	524	15	41
Assistant Principals	489	24	42
Enhanced At-Risk Add-On	451	12	28
School Counselors	439	4	28
K-3 Class Size Reduction	404	8	26
Specialized Student Support Personnel	373	5	17
Work-Based Learning Coordinators	324	1	6
Teacher Leader and Teacher Mentor Programs	306	1	9
English Learner (EL) Teachers	271	1	9
Principal Mentorship Program	197	1	2

# 2023 SURVEY QUESTIONS

The following is a list of potential areas for revised SOQ prescriptions. Prioritize the SOQ areas for which a revised prescription would benefit your division most.

**Work-based learning** – Among requirements for graduation is a “high-quality work-based learning experience” that provides students with meaningful exposure to career opportunities. Support to school divisions could include clarifications on high-quality work-based learning experiences and could include technical assistance in implementation of high-quality work-based learning.

**Math** – In September 2023, new Mathematics Standards of Learning were adopted by the State Board of Education for full implementation in SY2024–2025. There has been tremendous learning loss in mathematics across the Commonwealth due to the pandemic. School divisions need access to high-quality instructional materials and aligned professional learning for K-8 educators to assist in the improvement of student achievement outcomes and the implementation of the new Standards of Learning to close learning gaps at an accelerated pace for students in the K-8 setting to include Algebra.

# 2023 SURVEY QUESTIONS CONT'D

The following is a list of potential areas for revised SOQ prescriptions. Prioritize the SOQ areas for which a revised prescription would benefit your division most.

**Assessment** – In March 2023, a working group, formed through House Bill 585, was convened to provide recommendations to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on the development of a new, rigorous suite of assessments for the Virginia’s Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment system. The SOL assessments provide important information to divisions, schools, educators, and families. The working group recommendations will help guide VDOE as a new assessment system is developed. School divisions need access to rigorous, high quality assessment data and will need to be able to use the information from the assessments to inform instructional decisions.

**Teacher licensure** – Divisions across the Commonwealth are facing teacher shortages. With the recent data on continued learning gaps, it is a priority for divisions to place high-quality educators in front of the classroom every day. Divisions need innovative pathways created and barriers removed to help bring new teachers into the schools. VDOE is working to expand the number of teacher pathways to increase the number high-quality educators and streamline the process of licensure.



# 2023 SURVEY QUESTIONS CONT'D

The following is a list of potential areas for revised SOQ prescriptions. Prioritize the SOQ areas for which a revised prescription would benefit your division most.

**Attendance Funding** – In the Spring of 2023, the Virginia Board of Education reinforced the importance of attendance and Fall 2023 data releases indicate that attendance must be an area of focus for school divisions to ensure learning recovery occurs for all students. School divisions need funding resources to ensure meaningful engagement opportunities are offered and that schools have the appropriate staff to support re-engagement work with students and families.

**Virginia Literacy Act** – Implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act will be expected of all school divisions beginning the 2024–2025 school year. This will require a systemic change in the way school divisions function in terms of early literacy practices and priorities. Therefore, school divisions will need support with high-quality instructional materials usage, evidence-based literacy practices, the creation of professional learning networks, highly impactful literacy coaching, and leadership development throughout the school division organization for this to become part of the fabric of the organization to address the learning loss left behind by the pandemic with a focus on grades K-8.

# 2023 SURVEY QUESTIONS CONT'D

The following is a list of potential areas for revised SOQ prescriptions. Prioritize the SOQ areas for which a revised prescription would benefit your division most.

**High-intensity tutoring** – ALL In tutoring was launched in September 2023 in response to the significant student need in grades 3-8 reading and mathematics. In addition, the ALL In program provides school divisions with funds, resources, and ongoing VDOE support to redesign intervention into a learning acceleration/tutoring model and expand tutoring to serve more students. For more information, see the [ALL In High-Intensity Academic Tutoring Division Playbook](#).

**Artificial Intelligence and instruction** – Within the VDOE, we are working to support School Divisions with appropriate guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence and its relationship to high-quality instruction. We want all classrooms and students across the Commonwealth to have access to the learning tools and resources necessary to compete in the workforce after graduation. Therefore, VDOE will provide ongoing guidance and professional learning opportunities on how to improve the use of instructional technologies in instruction and guidance on the use of AI as technologies evolve.

# 2023 SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

	<b>Score</b>	<b>Top 1</b>	<b>Top 3</b>
Virginia Literacy Act	439	21	49
Teacher licensure	419	24	45
Math	417	8	46
Work-based learning	330	7	25
Attendance funding	308	5	18
Assessment	268	3	14
High-intensity tutoring	262	3	15
Artificial Intelligence and instruction	113	0	1

# 2023 SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT CONT'D

- For responses that included the **Virginia Literacy Act** as one of the top three priorities, **32% said funding was the primary reason.**
- In responses where **teacher licensure** was one of the top three priorities, **76% identified the need for alternative pathways or flexibility** as the reason the topic was a high priority.
- Just over **55% of responses that included Math** as one of the top three priorities, identified the need for **professional development** as the reason for included the topic in the top three priority areas.
- When asked for priority areas not included in the survey, 28% of respondents included **mental health**, 22% included **class size or pupil-teacher ratios** and 22% included **staffing.**

# SUMMARY OF INPUT FROM SUPERINTENDENTS

## 2019 Needs

1. Reading Specialists
2. Assistant Principals
3. Enhanced At-Risk Add-on
4. School Counselors

## 2023 Emerging Needs

1. Virginia Literacy Act
2. Teacher Licensure
3. Math Standards Implementation
4. Work-based Learning

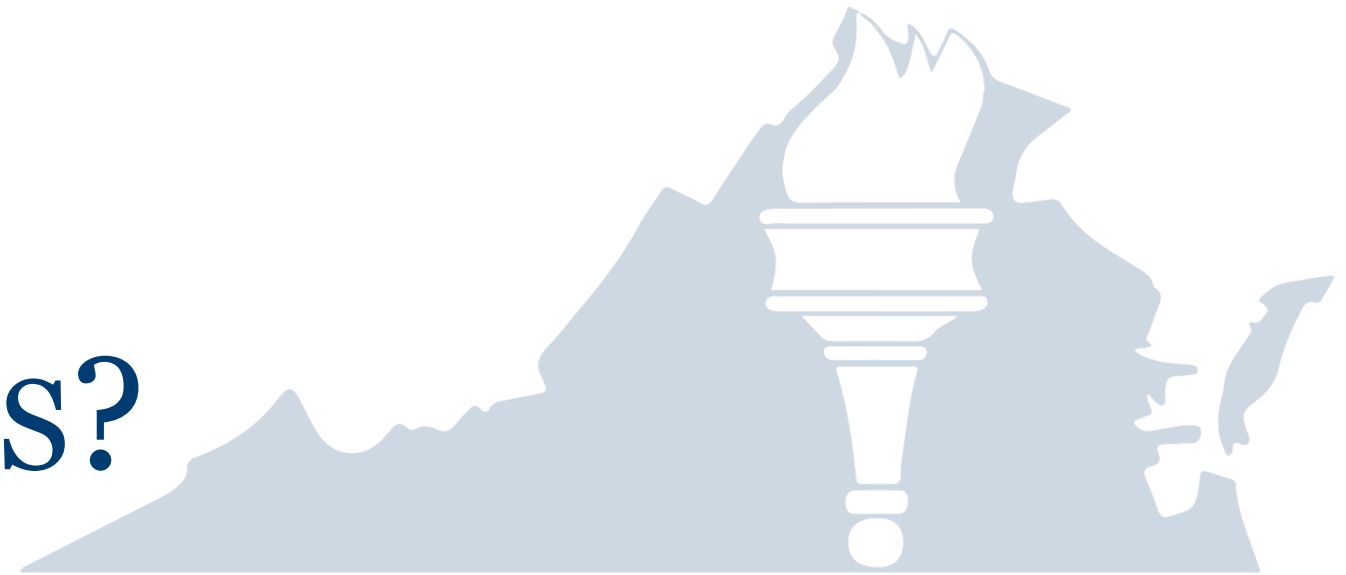
# VDOE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Re-design of post-secondary opportunities (Diploma+)
- Provide supports for student mental health/trauma informed (Superintendent's Recommendation)
- Inclusion as a focus of special education based on program evaluation
- Standards, assessment, and accountability work continuing board focused work

# NEXT STEPS

1. Formulate draft SOQ recommendations from this discussion
2. Request individualized feedback between October and November
3. Hold working review session during November Board meeting
4. Finalize SOQ recommendations

QUESTIONS?



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
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