



# VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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# AGENDA ITEM

**Agenda Item:** E

**Date:** October 19, 2023

**Title:** First and Final Review of Proposed Changes to Amendment 6 to Virginia's Consolidated State Plan

**Presenter:** Katie Carroll, Deputy Superintendent of Student Performance and Support

## **Purpose of Presentation**

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

## **Executive Summary**

In June 2023, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) presented [proposed Amendment 6 to Virginia's Consolidated State Plan](#) (CSP) to the Virginia Board of Education (the Board). The CSP is required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeed Act. The proposed amendment to the CSP changed the methodology for determining growth for students who failed state assessments, when calculating the rates for the federal growth indicators in reading and mathematics, beginning in school year 2022-2023. Specifically, in the proposed Amendment 6 for federal accountability, the growth indicators for reading and mathematics would 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 assessment and the current year state assessment (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 assessment and demonstrated growth using a progress table methodology that compares the student's fall growth assessment score to the student's current year SOL assessment score.

[Following the approval Amendment 6 by the Board](#), VDOE submitted the amendment to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) on August 7, 2023. USED requested VDOE to clarify how grade 3 students were included in the growth indicators and suggested additional language be added to the amendment. The request from USED was specific to how the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade growth measure included students with the most significant cognitive disabilities taking the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP). VAAP does not include a fall assessment so growth for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students taking VAAP cannot be measured as a fall-to-spring growth measure. The U.S. Department of Education suggested VDOE add clarifying language that would explicitly state how students taking VAAP are included in the measure, noting that students that “passed” VAAP would be considered as making growth and students that “failed” VAAP would be considered as not making growth.

Following this request, VDOE reconsidered how grade 3 students were included in the growth indicators in the original amendment. The VDOE is requesting the Board approve a revised Amendment 6 to the CSP (Attachment 1) which removes grade 3 students from the growth indicators.

Specifically, in the revised Amendment 6 for federal accountability, the growth indicators for reading and mathematics will include:

- Grades 4 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.

The revised language in the CSP can be found on page 18 of Attachment 1.

The growth indicators in Virginia’s federal accountability system are used in the identification of federal support schools: Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools. For the 2023-2024 school year, only TSI schools are scheduled to be identified. The removal of grade 3 students from the growth indicator is expected to have a negligible impact on the identification process.

### **Action Requested**

Final Approval: Action requested at this meeting.

### **Superintendent's Recommendation**

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

### **Rationale for Action**

This action is necessary to respond to requests from the U.S. Department of Education and to consistently include all students who fail state assessments in the growth indicators. This does not impact accreditation results and will have a negligible impact on identification of federal support schools.

### **Previous Review or Action**

The Board approved Amendment 6 at the June 2023 Board Meeting.

### **Background Information and Statutory Authority**

Prior to the approval of Amendment 5, the federal growth indicators for mathematics and reading included students who passed the state assessments (SOL and VAAP) and grade 4 through 8 students who failed the state assessments but demonstrated growth from the previous year assessments. In December 2022, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved [Amendment 5 to Virginia's Consolidated State Plan](#). 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 revision to the methodology is represented in Amendment 6.

For additional background information on this Amendment see the [item approved by the Board at its meeting June 14, 2023](#).

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

As per [Superintendent's Memorandum 089-23, dated May 11, 2023](#), the original versions of Amendment 6 was posted to the VDOE 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.

To gather feedback on the revised Amendment 6, the Committee of Practitioners was again convened on October 11, 2023, to discuss the updated methodology. They were in support of the changes. Public comment on the amendment will be open until November 9, 2023. To date, there have been no additional comments received. Should public comment after the October 19, 2023, business meeting suggest additional Board review, the amendment will be brought back before the Board. All public comments will be accessible to the Board.

**Implementation and Communication**

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

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

There are no fiscal or human resources impact.