

# **FIRST AND FINAL REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOL) TEST PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS**

Presentation to the Virginia Board of Education at the  
January 25, 2024, Business Meeting

A light blue silhouette of a torch with a flame, positioned over a map of the state of Virginia. The torch is white with a blue flame, and the map is a solid light blue color.

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

# RATIONALE FOR ACTION

- The revision is in response to requests from stakeholders heard during the December 2023 accountability listening sessions to remove the “Fail” language, as performance level descriptions should thoughtfully communicate performance to students.
- If approved, stakeholders will see this change in language in the spring 2024 SOL test reports.

# BACKGROUND

- Stakeholder Feedback at Accountability Listening Sessions:
  - Stakeholders expressed concern regarding the “Fail” language used as part of the performance level descriptions as that language can be detrimental to students.
- Performance (achievement) level descriptions to communicate to stakeholders how students performed on tests.
- The Board adopted three performance level descriptions at the onset of the SOL assessment program.
- In 2006, the Board changed the Grades 3-8 Mathematics and Reading performance level descriptions to include four performance level descriptions.

# CHANGES TO SOL TEST PERFORMANCE LEVELS

- The VDOE is recommending the following changes to the performance level descriptions:
  - Remove “Fail” and “Pass” from all performance level descriptions.
  - Change the “Does Not Meet” performance level descriptions for End of Course, History & Social Science, and Science SOL tests to “Does Not Meet Proficiency.”

# CURRENT SOL TEST PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

- Grades 3-8 Mathematics and Reading SOL tests:
  - Fail/Below Basic
  - Fail/Basic
  - Pass/Proficient
  - Pass/Advanced
- End of Course, History & Social Science, and Science SOL tests:
  - Fail/Does Not Meet
  - Pass/Proficient
  - Pass/Advanced

# SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve changes to the SOL test performance level descriptions, which would result in the following performance level descriptions:

- **Grades 3-8 Mathematics and Reading SOL tests:**
  - o Below Basic
  - o Basic
  - o Proficient
  - o Advanced
- **End of Course, History & Social Science, and Science SOL tests:**
  - o Does Not Meet Proficiency
  - o Proficient
  - o Advanced