



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: M

Date: March 28, 2024

Title: Final Review of the Proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning*

Presenter: Dr. Michelle C. Wallace, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Purpose of Presentation

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Executive Summary

The Board of Education (“Board”) proposed revised 2024 *English Standards of Learning* describe the Commonwealth’s expectations for student learning and achievement in grades K-12 English Language Arts. Periodic revisions of the standards are necessary to update content, clarify important concepts, and reflect current academic research and best practices in English education.

In January 2024, the Board received the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* for first review. From January 26, 2024, to March 1, 2024, the Board accepted written public comment and held [ten public hearings across the Commonwealth](#). The final version reflects edits made by Virginia Department of Education (“VDOE”) staff based on feedback and public comments. The proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* represents six elementary grade levels (K-5), three middle school grade levels (6-8), and four high school grade levels (9-12).

The proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* are not intended to encompass the entire curriculum for a given grade level or course. School divisions are encouraged to incorporate the standards into a comprehensive high-quality instructional program.

This item supports Priority 1 of the Board’s *Comprehensive Plan 2024–2029*: to set and help every learner meet high expectations.

Action Requested

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board approve the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* to be fully instructionally implemented in 2024-2025 and authorize the VDOE to make final clarifying and/or technical edits.

Previous Review or Action

Previous review or action.

Date: February 2, 2023

Action: Report on the [Timeline for the English Standards of Learning and Revision Process](#).

Date: January 25, 2024

Action: Board accepted the [Proposed 2024 English Standards of Learning](#) for First Review

Background Information and Statutory Authority

Section [22.1-253.13:1 B](#) of the *Code of Virginia* requires a review of the Board’s *Standards of Learning* every seven years:

The Board of Education shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary of the Standards of Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent basis.

Additionally, the *Virginia Literacy Act* requires the K-8 *Standards of Learning* to be aligned with “evidence-based literacy instruction” and “science-based reading research,” which guided the revision of the *English Standards of Learning*. The [Virginia Literacy Act](#) states the following:

Evidence-based literacy instruction means structured instructional practices, including sequential, systematic, explicit, and cumulative teaching, that (i) are based on reliable, trustworthy, and valid evidence consistent with science-based reading research; (ii) are used in core or general instruction, supplemental instruction, intervention services, and intensive intervention services; (iii) have a demonstrated record of success in adequately increasing students' reading competency, vocabulary, oral language, and comprehension and in building mastery of the foundational reading skills of phonological and phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, phonics, spelling, and text

reading fluency; and (iv) are able to be differentiated in order to meet the individual needs of students.

Science-based reading research means research that (i) applies rigorous, systematic, and objective observational or experimental procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading development, reading instruction, and reading and writing difficulties and (ii) explains how proficient reading and writing develop, why some children have difficulties developing key literacy skills, and how schools can best assess and instruct early literacy, including the use of evidence-based literacy instruction practices to promote reading and writing achievement.

Public Comment

In-person [public hearings](#) were held in Farmville, Newport News, Harrisonburg, Chesterfield, Abingdon, and Warrenton between February 5 and February 26, 2024. In addition, four virtual public hearings were held between February 6 and February 22, 2024. There were 72 attendees in total at the six in-person public hearings with 20 of the attendees providing comment. There were 156 attendees in total at the four virtual public hearings with 21 of the attendees providing public comment.

Public comments were also collected through an electronic form submission and via email at vdoe.english@doe.virginia.gov. A total of 139 individual submissions of public comments were received during the written public comment period from January 26, 2024, through March 1, 2024. Individuals using the electronic form could submit specific comments on specific grade levels, provide general feedback on the guiding principles and/or standards, or provide requests and ideas for implementation support from the division perspective, building perspective, and teacher perspective.

The following provides information regarding the written public comments received and the public hearings that were held regarding the draft 2024 *English Standards of Learning*.

Sources of Public Comment	Dates	Number of Responses
1. 30-Day Public Comment Period (electronic)	January 26, 2024-March 1, 2024	89 submissions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 48 general comments• 162 additional grade level comments
2. Written Public Comment (email)	January 26, 2024- March 1, 2024	9 emails received
3. In Person Public Hearing Sessions	February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farmville (2/5/2024) 3 speakers (25 attendees total)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newport News (2/13/2024) 4 speakers (7 attendees total) • Harrisonburg (2/15/2024) 2 speakers (10 attendees total) • Chesterfield (2/20/2024) 3 speakers (13 attendees total) • Abingdon (2/21/2024) 2 speakers (6 attendees total) • Warrenton (2/26/2024) 6 speakers (11 attendees total)
4. Virtual Public Hearing Sessions	February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/6/2024- 6:30p.m. 5 speakers (48 attendees total) • 2/12/2024- 9:00 a.m. 6 speakers (36 attendees total) • 2/16/2024- 11:30 a.m. 4 speakers (32 attendees total) • 2/22/2024- 11:30 a.m. 6 speakers (40 attendees total)

The following chart provides information regarding the number of responses received for each grade by individuals using the electronic form or attending a public hearing:

Grade/Course	Number of Responses	Grade/Course	Number of Responses
Kindergarten	20	Grade 8	6
Grade 1	23	Grade 9	10
Grade 2	17	Grade 10	12
Grade 3	17	Grade 11	13
Grade 4	12	Grade 12	9
Grade 5	12	General	89
Grade 6	5	Implementation Support	78
Grade 7	6	Assessment	29

The following organizations’ written feedback was included in the totals for public comment:

- Arlington Parents for Education;
- Northern Virginia English Leaders (NOVEL);
- Greater Washington Chapter of Virginia State Literacy Association; and
- English Education Advisory Board

VDOE staff analyzed public comment, reviewed the requested edits to the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning*, and provided recommendations. VDOE staff considered all recommendations made by the public, the following of which have been specifically addressed in the revised SOL.

Summary of the Proposed Revised *English Standards of Learning*

The major elements of the attached proposed revised *English Standards of Learning* include:

- Changed Writing Foundations to Foundations for Writing to align with Foundations for Reading;
- Adjusted skills to strengthen K-12 progression and alignment;
- Added skills where gaps were present in the K-12 progression;
- Revised wording for clarity and consistency;
- Completed technical edits for grammatical errors and typos; and
- Added Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Research in grades 6-12.

Implementation and Communication

Following the Board’s approval of the revised SOL, VDOE staff will post a final version of 2024 *English Standards of Learning* on the VDOE website. VDOE proposes the following implementation timeline and communication plan:

School Year	Date	Action	Communication	Method
2023-2024	March 2024	Board of Education approves the 2024 <i>English Standards of Learning</i> (SOL)	Announce approval of the revised SOL, implementation timeline, and expectations for incorporating the new standards into a comprehensive high-	Superintendent’s Newsletter, VDOE social media, Teacher Direct, and other communication channels

School Year	Date	Action	Communication	Method
			quality instructional program	
	April 2024	Final versions of the 2024 English SOL posted	Announce posting of final versions and expectations for incorporating the new standards into a comprehensive high-quality instructional program	Superintendent's Newsletter, VDOE social media, Teacher Direct, and other communication channels
	April-August 2024	VDOE provides transition support for the implementation of the 2024 English Standards of Learning	Announce posting of resources to support the 2024-2025 Implementation	Superintendent's Newsletter, VDOE social media, Teacher Direct, and other communication channels
	Spring 2024	VDOE convenes teams of teachers and specialists to development of instructional resources aligned to the 2024 English Standards of Learning		
	Spring/Summer 2024	VDOE provides professional learning on the changes to the English Standards of Learning	Announce professional learning, and direct and indirect regional support options	Superintendent's Newsletter, VDOE social media, Teacher Direct, and other communication channels
2024-2025	Fall/Winter 2024	VDOE provides Instructional Guides (IGs) aligned with the 2024 English Standards of Learning	Announce posting of resources	Superintendent's Newsletter, VDOE social media, Teacher Direct, and other communication channels
	2024-2025	Instruction aligned fully to 2024 English Standards of Learning VDOE continues to develop resources aligned to the 2024 English Standards of Learning and provide		

School Year	Date	Action	Communication	Method
		professional learning opportunities to school divisions		

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The revisions can be absorbed by the agency’s existing resources at this time. If the agency is required to absorb additional responsibilities related to this activity, other services may be impacted. Additional resources are being considered to support implementation.