



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: I

Date: October 24, 2024

Title: First and Final Review of Fast-Track Regulatory Action to Implement Provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act

Presenter: Rob Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Human Capital

Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Executive Summary:

[Chapter 757](#) of the 2022 Acts of the Assembly Special Session 1 directs the Board of Education to require, pursuant to regulation, each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education that provides training for any student seeking initial licensure by the Board shall include a program of coursework and require all such students to demonstrate mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction. The bill provides that, for any student seeking initial licensure by the Board as a teacher with an endorsement in early childhood, elementary education, or special education or with an endorsement as a reading specialist, ensure that reading coursework and field practice opportunities are a significant focus of the education preparation program. These regulatory changes are necessary and urgent since the provisions of this act shall become effective beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. This proposed regulatory action is necessary to conform with this change in Virginia statutory law.

Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Superintendent's Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the regulatory change included with this item as recommended by ABTEL.

Rationale for Action:

The Board is being asked to approve this action in order to keep its regulations consistent with

the requirements of the Code of Virginia and to fulfill directives from the General Assembly and the Governor.

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Section [2.2-4012.1](#) of the Code of Virginia provides that “fast-track” rulemaking may be used when a rule is considered to be “noncontroversial.”

Chapter 757 of the 2022 Acts of the Assembly Special Session 1 directs the Board of Education (“Board”) to require, pursuant to regulation, each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education that provides training for any student seeking initial licensure by the Board shall include a program of coursework and require all such students to demonstrate mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder engagement activities were conducted with representatives from institutions of higher education. This item was also presented to ABTEL on Tuesday October 15.

Implementation and Communication:

Requirements for Education Preparation Programs will make programmatic changes to endorsement areas in early childhood, elementary education, or special education or with an endorsement as a reading specialist. The Department of Education office of Teacher Education will work with Education Preparation Programs to align their instruction to the new requirements on an individual basis in preparation for their academic reviews.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

Current staff at the Department of Education will be able to accommodate the work associated with this recommended Board action.