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HOUSE BILL NO. 1019

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education
on February 11, 2000)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Dillard)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-253.13:1 of the Code of Virginia, as it shall become effective, and § 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently in effect and as it shall become effective, relating to the Standards of Learning assessments.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-253.13:1 of the Code of Virginia, as it shall become effective, and § 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently in effect and as it shall become effective 22.1-253.13:1 of the Code of Virginia, as it shall become effective, are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-253.13:1. (Effective July 1, 2000 until July 1, 2003) Standard 1. Basic skills, selected programs, and instructional personnel.

A. The General Assembly and the Board of Education believe that the fundamental goal of the public schools of this Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are necessary for success in school and preparation for life, and find that the quality of education is dependent upon the provision of the appropriate working environment, benefits, and salaries necessary to ensure the availability of high quality instructional personnel and adequate commitment of other resources.

B. The Board of Education shall establish educational objectives to implement the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and for preparation for life in the years beyond. The current educational objectives, known as the Standards of Learning, shall not be construed to be regulations as defined in § 9-6.14:4; however, the Board of Education may, from time to time, revise these educational objectives to maintain academic rigor. In order to provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing new educational objectives. Thirty days prior to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give written notice by mail of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its intention to revise these educational objectives in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any revisions of these educational objectives.

The Board shall seek to ensure that any revised educational objectives are consistent with the world's highest educational standards. These objectives shall include, but not be limited to, basic skills of communication, computation and critical reasoning including problem solving and decision making and the skills to manage personal finances and to make sound financial decisions, and the development of personal qualities such as self-esteem, sociability, self-management, integrity, and honesty.

With such funds as are made available for this purpose, the Board shall regularly review and revise the competencies for vocational education programs to require the full integration of English, mathematics, science and social studies Standards of Learning. Occupational vocational programs shall be aligned with industry and professional standard certifications, where they exist.

The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to maintain rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning.

School boards shall implement these objectives or objectives specifically designed for their school divisions that are equivalent to or exceed the Board's requirements. Students shall be expected to achieve the educational objectives utilized by the school division at appropriate age or grade levels.

With such funds as are available for this purpose, the Board of Education may prescribe assessment methods to determine the level of achievement of these objectives by all students. Such assessments shall evaluate knowledge, application of knowledge, critical thinking, and skills related to the Standards of Learning being assessed. The Board, with the assistance of independent testing experts, shall conduct a regular analysis and validation process for these assessments. *The Board of Education shall make publicly available such assessments in a timely manner and as soon as practicable following the administration of such tests, so long as the release of such assessments does not compromise test security or deplete the bank of assessment questions necessary to construct subsequent tests.*

By July 1, 1999, the Board shall develop and approve objectives for mathematics, at the middle and high school levels, for personal living and finances, which shall focus on money management skills for individuals and families. The personal living and finances objectives shall require instruction in those skills necessary to handle personal business and finances and shall include, but need not be limited to,

60 the following: opening a bank account and how to judge the quality of a bank's services; balancing a
61 checkbook; completing a loan application; the implications of an inheritance; the basics of personal
62 insurance policies; consumer rights and responsibilities; dealing with salesmen and merchants; debt
63 management, including retail and credit card debt; state and federal tax computation; local tax
64 assessments; computation of interest rates by various mechanisms; understanding simple contracts; and
65 how to contest an incorrect bill. These personal living and finances objectives shall not be required to be
66 included in the Board's Standards of Learning, and shall be developed in a manner to ensure that
67 instruction in the Standards of Learning shall not be de-emphasized. The Board shall not be required to
68 evaluate student achievement concerning such objectives in the Standards of Learning Assessment Tests
69 required by § 22.1-253.13:3.

70 C. Local school boards shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades K through
71 12 which emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, technological
72 proficiency, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including
73 knowledge of history, economics, government, foreign languages, international cultures, health and
74 physical education, environmental issues and geography necessary for responsible participation in
75 American society and in the international community; fine arts, which may include, but need not be
76 limited to, music and art, and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed to qualify for further education
77 and employment or, in the case of some handicapped children, to qualify for appropriate training; and
78 development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment
79 and lifelong learning. School boards shall strive to employ licensed instructional personnel qualified in
80 the relevant subject areas, including qualified teachers, licensed through the Board of Education's
81 provisional licensure procedures, who have professional expertise in the relevant subject areas.

82 Local school boards shall also develop and implement programs of prevention, intervention, or
83 remediation for students who are educationally at risk including, but not limited to, those whose scores
84 are in the bottom national quartile on Virginia State Assessment Program Tests, who do not pass the
85 literacy tests prescribed by the Board of Education, or who fail to achieve a passing score on any
86 Standards of Learning assessment in grades three, five, and eight. Such programs may include summer
87 school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, as defined
88 by regulations promulgated by the Board of Education, or other forms of remediation. Division
89 superintendents shall require such students to take special programs of prevention, intervention, or
90 remediation which may include attendance in public summer school programs, in accordance with clause
91 (ii) of subsection A of § 22.1-254 and § 22.1-254.01. The requirement for remediation may, however, be
92 satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of prevention, intervention or remediation which has
93 been selected by his parent and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special
94 program which has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program
95 by the division superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special
96 remediation program shall be borne by the student's parent. Students required to attend such summer
97 school programs or to participate in another form of remediation shall not be charged tuition by the
98 local school division. Based on the number of students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the
99 per pupil costs, additional state funds shall be provided for summer and other remediation programs as
100 set forth in the appropriation act.

101 Any student who does not pass the literacy tests or all Standards of Learning assessments in grades
102 three, five, and eight shall be required to attend a summer school program or participate in another form
103 of remediation. Such summer school program or other form of remediation shall be chosen by the
104 school division to be appropriate to the academic needs of the student. State funds shall be provided, as
105 set forth in the appropriation act, for the attendance in remediation programs conducted by local school
106 divisions for those students who do not pass the literacy tests beginning with the 1997-1998 fiscal year
107 and for students who do not pass all Standards of Learning assessments in grades three, five, and eight
108 beginning with the 1998-1999 fiscal year.

109 To ensure consistency in program quality, each school board may establish a remediation program
110 standards committee which may include, but need not be limited to, the superintendent or his designee,
111 a teacher, a parent, and one representative of the community at large. The remediation program
112 standards committee shall recommend the program components for the remediation programs and shall
113 evaluate the success of the programs. Such program components may include transition mechanisms for
114 children to ensure the smooth movement between remediation programs and regular programs,
115 pupil-teacher ratios, objectives, and time, site, and duration of the various programs.

116 Such remediation programs shall include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of
117 students who are at risk of failure of the literacy tests or the Standards of Learning assessments in
118 grades three, five, and eight. The identified students shall be provided appropriate remediation activities.

119 The Board of Education shall establish standards for full funding of summer remedial programs
120 which shall include, but not be limited to, the minimum number of instructional hours or the equivalent
121 thereof required for full funding and an assessment system designed to evaluate program effectiveness.

Based on the number of students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil instructional costs, state funds shall be provided for the full cost of summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation act, provided such programs comply with such standards as shall be established by the Board, pursuant to § 22.1-199.2.

D. Local school boards shall also implement the following:

1. Programs in grades K through 3 which emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance success.

2. Programs based on prevention, intervention, or retrieval designed to increase the number of students who earn a high school diploma or general education development (GED) certificate. As provided in the appropriation act, state funding, in addition to basic aid, shall be allocated to support programs grounded in sound educational policy to reduce the number of students who drop out of school. From such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose, sufficient funds shall be provided to hold all local school divisions harmless by providing no-loss funding which maintains the level of each school division's funding as allocated for drop-out prevention programs on July 1, 1996, if the level of funding for such school division's drop-out prevention programs would be less than its level of funding for such programs in fiscal year 1995. Effective on and after July 1, 1996, the Board of Education shall develop and implement a funding mechanism to ensure that no school board is penalized in its state funding for drop-out prevention programs for reducing the drop-out rate in its school division.

3. Career education programs infused into the K through 12 curricula that promote knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, the military, career education schools, and the teaching profession, and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills. School boards may include career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades.

4. Competency-based vocational education programs, which integrate academic outcomes, career guidance and job-seeking skills for all secondary students including those identified as handicapped that reflect employment opportunities, labor market needs, applied basic skills, job-seeking skills, and career guidance. Career guidance shall include employment counseling designed to furnish information on available employment opportunities to all students, including those identified as handicapped, and placement services for students exiting school. Each school board shall develop and implement a plan to ensure compliance with the provisions of this subsection.

5. Academic and vocational preparation for students who plan to continue their education beyond secondary school or who plan to enter employment.

6. Early identification of handicapped students and enrollment of such students in appropriate instructional programs consistent with state and federal law.

7. Early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated instructional programs.

8. Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in these standards. Such students shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Education.

9. Adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level. Such programs may be conducted by the school board as the primary agency or through a collaborative arrangement between the school board and other agencies.

10. A plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a divisionwide priority which shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students.

11. A plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of advanced placement classes, the International Baccalaureate program, and Academic Year Governor's School Programs, the qualifications for enrolling in such classes and programs, and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and International Baccalaureate examinations.

E. Each local school board shall employ with state and local basic, special education, gifted, and vocational education funds a minimum number of licensed, full-time equivalent instructional personnel for each 1,000 students in average daily membership (ADM) as set forth in the appropriation act. Calculations of kindergarten positions shall be based on full-day kindergarten programs. Beginning with the March 31 report of average daily membership, those school divisions offering half-day kindergarten shall adjust their average daily membership for kindergarten to reflect eighty-five percent of the total kindergarten average daily memberships, as provided in the appropriation act.

F. In addition to the positions supported by basic aid and in support of regular school year remedial programs, state funding, pursuant to the appropriation act, shall be provided to fund certain full-time equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students in grades K through 12 estimated to score in the bottom national quartile on Virginia State Assessment Program Tests and those who fail the literacy tests or Standards of Learning assessments for grades three, five, and eight prescribed by the Board. State funding for remedial programs provided pursuant to this subsection and the appropriation act may

183 be used to support programs for educationally at-risk students as identified by the local school boards.
184 The Board of Education shall establish criteria for identification of educationally at-risk students, which
185 shall not be construed to be regulations as defined in § 9-6.14:4; however, the Board of Education may,
186 from time to time, revise these identification criteria. In order to provide appropriate opportunity for
187 input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education shall conduct
188 public hearings prior to establishing or revising such identification criteria. Thirty days prior to
189 conducting such hearings, the Board shall give written notice by mail of the date, time, and place of the
190 hearings to all local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and
191 publish notice of its intention to establish or revise such identification criteria in the Virginia Register of
192 Regulations. Interested parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information
193 prior to final adoption of any such identification criteria or revisions thereto.

194 G. Licensed instructional personnel shall be assigned by each school board in a manner that produces
195 divisionwide ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions,
196 excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, and librarians, that are
197 not greater than the following ratios: (i) twenty-four to one in kindergarten with no class being larger
198 than twenty-nine students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten class exceeds
199 twenty-four pupils, a full-time teacher's aide shall be assigned to the class; (ii) twenty-four to one in
200 grade one with no class being larger than thirty students; (iii) twenty-four to one in grades two and three
201 with no class being larger than thirty students; (iv) twenty-five to one in grades four through six with no
202 class being larger than thirty-five students; and (v) twenty-four to one in English classes in grades six
203 through twelve.

204 Further, pursuant to the appropriation act, school boards may implement in kindergarten through third
205 grade, within certain schools, lower ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time
206 equivalent teaching positions by assigning instructional personnel in a manner that produces ratios of
207 students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special
208 education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, and librarians, as follows: (i) in schools
209 having high concentrations of at-risk students, eighteen to one; and (ii) in schools having moderate
210 concentrations of at-risk students, twenty to one. For the purposes of this subsection, "schools having
211 high concentrations of at-risk students" and "schools having moderate concentrations of at-risk students"
212 shall be as defined in the appropriation act.

213 In addition, instructional personnel shall be assigned by each school board in a manner that produces
214 schoolwide ratios of students in average daily memberships to full-time equivalent teaching positions of
215 twenty-five to one in middle schools and high schools.

216 School boards shall, however, annually, on or before January 1, report to the public the actual
217 pupil-teacher ratios in elementary school classrooms by school for the current school year. Such actual
218 ratios shall include only the teachers who teach the grade and class on a full-time basis and shall
219 exclude resource personnel. School boards shall report pupil-teacher ratios which include resource
220 teachers in the same annual report. Any classes funded through the voluntary kindergarten through third
221 grade at-risk student/lower ratio program shall be identified as such classes. Any classes having waivers
222 to exceed the requirements of this subsection shall also be identified. Schools shall be identified;
223 however, the data shall be compiled in a manner to ensure the confidentiality of all teacher and pupil
224 identities.

225 H. Students enrolled in a public school on a less than full-time basis shall be counted in average
226 daily membership (ADM) in the relevant school division. Students who are either (i) enrolled in a
227 nonpublic school or (ii) receiving home instruction pursuant to § 22.1-254.1, and who are enrolled in
228 public school on a less than full-time basis in any mathematics, science, English, history, social science,
229 vocational education, fine arts, foreign language, or health education or physical education course shall
230 be counted in the average daily membership (ADM) in the relevant school division on a pro rata basis
231 as provided in the appropriation act. However, no such nonpublic or home school student shall be
232 counted as more than one-half a student for purposes of such pro rata calculation. Such calculation shall
233 not include enrollments of such students in any other public school courses.

234 § 22.1-253.13:1. (Effective July 1, 2003) Standard 1. Basic skills, selected programs, and instructional
235 personnel.

236 A. The General Assembly and the Board of Education believe that the fundamental goal of the
237 public schools of this Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are
238 necessary for success in school and preparation for life, and find that the quality of education is
239 dependent upon the provision of the appropriate working environment, benefits, and salaries necessary to
240 ensure the availability of high quality instructional personnel and adequate commitment of other
241 resources.

242 B. The Board of Education shall establish educational objectives to implement the development of
243 the skills that are necessary for success in school and for preparation for life in the years beyond. The
244 current educational objectives, known as the Standards of Learning, shall not be construed to be

regulations as defined in § 9-6.14:4; however, the Board of Education may, from time to time, revise these educational objectives to maintain academic rigor. In order to provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing new educational objectives. Thirty days prior to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give written notice by mail of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its intention to revise these educational objectives in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any revisions of these educational objectives.

The Board shall seek to ensure that any revised educational objectives are consistent with the world's highest educational standards. These objectives shall include, but not be limited to, basic skills of communication, computation and critical reasoning including problem solving and decision making and the skills to manage personal finances and to make sound financial decisions, and the development of personal qualities such as self-esteem, sociability, self-management, integrity, and honesty.

With such funds as are made available for this purpose, the Board shall regularly review and revise the competencies for vocational education programs to require the full integration of English, mathematics, science and social studies Standards of Learning. Occupational vocational programs shall be aligned with industry and professional standard certifications, where they exist.

The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to maintain rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning.

School boards shall implement these objectives or objectives specifically designed for their school divisions that are equivalent to or exceed the Board's requirements. Students shall be expected to achieve the educational objectives utilized by the school division at appropriate age or grade levels.

With such funds as are available for this purpose, the Board of Education may prescribe assessment methods to determine the level of achievement of these objectives by all students. Such assessments shall evaluate knowledge, application of knowledge, critical thinking, and skills related to the Standards of Learning being assessed. The Board, with the assistance of independent testing experts, shall conduct a regular analysis and validation process for these assessments. *The Board of Education shall make publicly available such assessments in a timely manner and as soon as practicable following the administration of such tests, so long as the release of such assessments does not compromise test security or deplete the bank of assessment questions necessary to construct subsequent tests.*

By July 1, 1999, the Board shall develop and approve objectives for mathematics, at the middle and high school levels, for personal living and finances, which shall focus on money management skills for individuals and families. The personal living and finances objectives shall require instruction in those skills necessary to handle personal business and finances and shall include, but need not be limited to, the following: opening a bank account and how to judge the quality of a bank's services; balancing a checkbook; completing a loan application; the implications of an inheritance; the basics of personal insurance policies; consumer rights and responsibilities; dealing with salesmen and merchants; debt management, including retail and credit card debt; state and federal tax computation; local tax assessments; computation of interest rates by various mechanisms; understanding simple contracts; and how to contest an incorrect bill. These personal living and finances objectives shall not be required to be included in the Board's Standards of Learning, and shall be developed in a manner to ensure that instruction in the Standards of Learning shall not be de-emphasized. The Board shall not be required to evaluate student achievement concerning such objectives in the Standards of Learning Assessment Tests required by § 22.1-253.13:3.

C. Local school boards shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades K through 12 which emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, technological proficiency, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including knowledge of history, economics, government, foreign languages, international cultures, health and physical education, environmental issues and geography necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community; fine arts, which may include, but need not be limited to, music and art, and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed to qualify for further education and employment or, in the case of some handicapped children, to qualify for appropriate training; and development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning. School boards shall strive to employ licensed instructional personnel qualified in the relevant subject areas, including qualified teachers, licensed through the Board of Education's provisional licensure procedures, who have professional expertise in the relevant subject areas.

Local school boards shall also develop and implement programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation for students who are educationally at risk including, but not limited to, those whose scores are in the bottom national quartile on Virginia State Assessment Program Tests, or who fail to achieve a

passing score on any Standards of Learning assessment in grades three, five, and eight. Such programs may include summer school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, as defined by regulations promulgated by the Board of Education, or other forms of remediation. Division superintendents shall require such students to take special programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation which may include attendance in public summer school programs, in accordance with clause (ii) of subsection A of § 22.1-254 and § 22.1-254.01. The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of prevention, intervention or remediation which has been selected by his parent and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special program which has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program by the division superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation program shall be borne by the student's parent. Students required to attend such summer school programs or to participate in another form of remediation shall not be charged tuition by the local school division. Based on the number of students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil costs, additional state funds shall be provided for summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation act.

Any student who does not pass all Standards of Learning assessments in grades three, five, and eight shall be required to attend a summer school program or participate in another form of remediation. Such summer school program or other form of remediation shall be chosen by the school division to be appropriate to the academic needs of the student. State funds shall be provided, as set forth in the appropriation act, for the attendance in remediation programs conducted by local school divisions for students who do not pass all Standards of Learning assessments in grades three, five, and eight beginning with the 1998-1999 fiscal year.

To ensure consistency in program quality, each school board may establish a remediation program standards committee which may include, but need not be limited to, the superintendent or his designee, a teacher, a parent, and one representative of the community at large. The remediation program standards committee shall recommend the program components for the remediation programs and shall evaluate the success of the programs. Such program components may include transition mechanisms for children to ensure the smooth movement between remediation programs and regular programs, pupil-teacher ratios, objectives, and time, site, and duration of the various programs.

Such remediation programs shall include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of students who are at risk of academic failure of the Standards of Learning assessments in grades three, five, and eight. The identified students shall be provided appropriate remediation activities.

The Board of Education shall establish standards for full funding of summer remedial programs which shall include, but not be limited to, the minimum number of instructional hours or the equivalent thereof required for full funding and an assessment system designed to evaluate program effectiveness. Based on the number of students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil instructional costs, state funds shall be provided for the full cost of summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation act, provided such programs comply with such standards as shall be established by the Board, pursuant to § 22.1-199.2.

D. Local school boards shall also implement the following:

1. Programs in grades K through 3 which emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance success.

2. Programs based on prevention, intervention, or retrieval designed to increase the number of students who earn a high school diploma or general education development (GED) certificate. As provided in the appropriation act, state funding, in addition to basic aid, shall be allocated to support programs grounded in sound educational policy to reduce the number of students who drop out of school. From such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose, sufficient funds shall be provided to hold all local school divisions harmless by providing no-loss funding which maintains the level of each school division's funding as allocated for drop-out prevention programs on July 1, 1996, if the level of funding for such school division's drop-out prevention programs would be less than its level of funding for such programs in fiscal year 1995. Effective on and after July 1, 1996, the Board of Education shall develop and implement a funding mechanism to ensure that no school board is penalized in its state funding for drop-out prevention programs for reducing the drop-out rate in its school division.

3. Career education programs infused into the K through 12 curricula that promote knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, the military, career education schools, and the teaching profession, and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills. School boards may include career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades.

4. Competency-based vocational education programs, which integrate academic outcomes, career guidance and job-seeking skills for all secondary students including those identified as handicapped that reflect employment opportunities, labor market needs, applied basic skills, job-seeking skills, and career guidance. Career guidance shall include employment counseling designed to furnish information on

available employment opportunities to all students, including those identified as handicapped, and placement services for students exiting school. Each school board shall develop and implement a plan to ensure compliance with the provisions of this subsection.

5. Academic and vocational preparation for students who plan to continue their education beyond secondary school or who plan to enter employment.

6. Early identification of handicapped students and enrollment of such students in appropriate instructional programs consistent with state and federal law.

7. Early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated instructional programs.

8. Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in these standards. Such students shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Education.

9. Adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level. Such programs may be conducted by the school board as the primary agency or through a collaborative arrangement between the school board and other agencies.

10. A plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a divisionwide priority which shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students.

11. A plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of advanced placement classes, the International Baccalaureate program, and Academic Year Governor's School Programs, the qualifications for enrolling in such classes and programs, and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and International Baccalaureate examinations.

E. Each local school board shall employ with state and local basic, special education, gifted, and vocational education funds a minimum number of licensed, full-time equivalent instructional personnel for each 1,000 students in average daily membership (ADM) as set forth in the appropriation act. Calculations of kindergarten positions shall be based on full-day kindergarten programs. Beginning with the March 31 report of average daily membership, those school divisions offering half-day kindergarten shall adjust their average daily membership for kindergarten to reflect eighty-five percent of the total kindergarten average daily memberships, as provided in the appropriation act.

F. In addition to the positions supported by basic aid and in support of regular school year remedial programs, state funding, pursuant to the appropriation act, shall be provided to fund certain full-time equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students in grades K through 12 estimated to score in the bottom national quartile on Virginia State Assessment Program Tests and those who fail the literacy tests or Standards of Learning assessments for grades three, five, and eight prescribed by the Board. State funding for remedial programs provided pursuant to this subsection and the appropriation act may be used to support programs for educationally at-risk students as identified by the local school boards. The Board of Education shall establish criteria for identification of educationally at-risk students, which shall not be construed to be regulations as defined in § 9-6.14:4; however, the Board of Education may, from time to time, revise these identification criteria. In order to provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing or revising such identification criteria. Thirty days prior to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give written notice by mail of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its intention to establish or revise such identification criteria in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any such identification criteria or revisions thereto.

G. Licensed instructional personnel shall be assigned by each school board in a manner that produces divisionwide ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, and librarians, that are not greater than the following ratios: (i) twenty-four to one in kindergarten with no class being larger than twenty-nine students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten class exceeds twenty-four pupils, a full-time teacher's aide shall be assigned to the class; (ii) twenty-four to one in grade one with no class being larger than thirty students; (iii) twenty-four to one in grades two and three with no class being larger than thirty students; (iv) twenty-five to one in grades four through six with no class being larger than thirty-five students; and (v) twenty-four to one in English classes in grades six through twelve.

Further, pursuant to the appropriation act, school boards may implement in kindergarten through third grade, within certain schools, lower ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions by assigning instructional personnel in a manner that produces ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, and librarians, as follows: (i) in schools having high concentrations of at-risk students, eighteen to one; and (ii) in schools having moderate

429 concentrations of at-risk students, twenty to one. For the purposes of this subsection, "schools having
430 high concentrations of at-risk students" and "schools having moderate concentrations of at-risk students"
431 shall be as defined in the appropriation act.

432 In addition, instructional personnel shall be assigned by each school board in a manner that produces
433 schoolwide ratios of students in average daily memberships to full-time equivalent teaching positions of
434 twenty-five to one in middle schools and high schools.

435 School boards shall, however, annually, on or before January 1, report to the public the actual
436 pupil-teacher ratios in elementary school classrooms by school for the current school year. Such actual
437 ratios shall include only the teachers who teach the grade and class on a full-time basis and shall
438 exclude resource personnel. School boards shall report pupil-teacher ratios which include resource
439 teachers in the same annual report. Any classes funded through the voluntary kindergarten through third
440 grade at-risk student/lower ratio program shall be identified as such classes. Any classes having waivers
441 to exceed the requirements of this subsection shall also be identified. Schools shall be identified;
442 however, the data shall be compiled in a manner to ensure the confidentiality of all teacher and pupil
443 identities.

444 H. Students enrolled in a public school on a less than full-time basis shall be counted in average
445 daily membership (ADM) in the relevant school division. Students who are either (i) enrolled in a
446 nonpublic school or (ii) receiving home instruction pursuant to § 22.1-254.1, and who are enrolled in
447 public school on a less than full-time basis in any mathematics, science, English, history, social science,
448 vocational education, fine arts, foreign language, or health education or physical education course shall
449 be counted in the average daily membership (ADM) in the relevant school division on a pro rata basis
450 as provided in the appropriation act. However, no such nonpublic or home school student shall be
451 counted as more than one-half a student for purposes of such pro rata calculation. Such calculation shall
452 not include enrollments of such students in any other public school courses.

453 § 22.1-253.13:3. (Effective until July 1, 2003) Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and
454 evaluation.

455 A. The General Assembly recognizes the need for the Board of Education to prescribe requirements
456 to ensure that student progress is measured and that school boards and school personnel are accountable.

457 B. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for accreditation
458 pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) which shall include, but not be limited
459 to, student outcome measures, requirements and guidelines for instructional programs, administrative and
460 instructional staffing levels and positions, pupil personnel services, special education program standards,
461 auxiliary education programs such as library and media services, course and credit requirements for
462 graduation from high school, community relations, and the philosophy, goals, and objectives of public
463 education in Virginia.

464 In establishing course and credit requirements for a high school diploma, the Board shall provide for
465 the selection of integrated learning courses meeting the Standards of Learning and approved by the
466 Board to satisfy graduation credit requirements which shall include Standards of Learning Testing, as
467 necessary.

468 The Board shall include in the student outcome measures which are required by the Standards for
469 Accreditation, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for various grade levels and classes, as determined by
470 the Board, in accordance with the Standards of Learning. These Standards of Learning assessments shall
471 include, but need not be limited to, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for English, mathematics,
472 science, and social studies.

473 In revising the standards for accreditation, the Board shall seek to set pupil-teacher ratios for
474 educable mentally retarded (EMR) pupils that do not exceed the pupil-teacher ratios for self-contained
475 classes for pupils with specific learning disabilities. The Board shall review annually the accreditation
476 status of all schools in the Commonwealth.

477 The requirements for a standard or advanced studies high school diploma shall include one credit in
478 fine, performing, or practical arts. The requirements for a standard high school diploma may include a
479 concentration of courses selected from a variety of options. Such concentration may be planned to
480 ensure the completion of a focused sequence of elective courses leading to further education or
481 preparation for employment developed by the school division consistent with Board of Education
482 guidelines and as approved by the local school board.

483 The Board's regulations on accrediting schools shall include in the minimum staffing requirements,
484 according to the type of school and student enrollment, requirements for employment of (i) principals in
485 elementary schools, one half-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students; principals in middle
486 schools, one full-time, to be employed on a twelve-month basis; principals in high schools, one
487 full-time, to be employed on a twelve-month basis; (ii) assistant principals in elementary schools, one
488 half-time at 600 students, one full-time at 900 students; assistant principals in middle schools, one
489 full-time for each 600 students; assistant principals in high schools, one full-time for each 600 students;
490 (iii) librarians in elementary schools, one part-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students;

librarians in middle schools, one-half time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students, two full-time at 1000 students; librarians in high schools, one half-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students, two full-time at 1000 students; (iv) guidance counselors in middle schools, one period per 80 students, one full-time at 400 students, one additional period per 80 students or major fraction thereof; guidance counselors in high schools, one period per 70 students, one full-time at 350 students, one additional period per 70 students or major fraction thereof; (v) clerical personnel in elementary schools, part-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students; clerical personnel in middle schools, one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600 students beyond 200 students and one full-time for the library at 750 students; clerical personnel in high schools, one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600 students beyond 200 students and one full-time for the library at 750 students; and (vi) reading specialists in elementary schools, one full-time in each elementary school at the discretion of the local school board. A combined school, such as kindergarten through twelve, shall meet at all grade levels the staffing requirements for the highest grade level in that school; this requirement shall apply to all staff, except for guidance counselors, and shall be based on the school's total enrollment; guidance counselor staff requirements shall, however, be based on the enrollment at the various school organization levels, i.e., middle or high school. The Board of Education may grant waivers from these staffing levels upon request from local school boards seeking to implement experimental or innovative programs that are not consistent with these staffing levels.

C. The Board shall also establish requirements for certification of teachers, principals, supervisors and other professional staff and determine eligibility for appointment as a local division superintendent.

D. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop and the Board of Education shall approve criteria for determining and recognizing educational performance in the Commonwealth's public school divisions and schools. Such criteria, when approved, shall become an integral part of the accreditation process and shall include student outcome measurements. One year following the approval by the Board of such criteria, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually identify to the Board those school divisions and schools that exceed or do not meet the approved criteria. Such identification shall include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of public education programs in the various school divisions in Virginia and recommendations to the General Assembly for further enhancing student learning uniformly across the Commonwealth. In recognizing educational performance in the school divisions, the Board shall include consideration of special school division accomplishments, such as numbers of dual enrollments and students in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses, and participation in academic year Governor's Schools.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall assist local school boards in the implementation of action plans for increasing educational performance in those school divisions and schools that are identified as not meeting the approved criteria. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall monitor the implementation of and report to the Board of Education on the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken to improve the educational performance in such school divisions and schools.

The Department of Education shall conduct technical assistance visits for local school divisions. Schools accredited with a warning shall be given priority for such assistance, which shall include an analysis of relevant school data and the development and implementation of improvement plans to assist such schools in improving their accreditation status.

E. In order to assess the educational progress of students, the Board of Education shall also (i) develop appropriate assessments, which may include criterion-referenced tests and alternative assessment instruments which may be used by classroom teachers; (ii) prescribe and provide measures, which may include nationally normed tests, to be designated as the Virginia State Assessment Program, which shall be used to identify students who score in the bottom quartile at selected grade levels; and (iii) prescribe and provide literacy tests in reading, writing and mathematics which shall be administered to students in grade six and to students who have not successfully passed them in grades seven and eight. The Board of Education is authorized to pursue all available civil remedies for breaches in test security. *Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, no test or examination authorized by this section, including the Standards of Learning assessments, shall be released or required to be released as minimum competency tests, if, in the judgment of the Board, such release would breach the security of such test or examination or deplete the bank of questions necessary to construct future secure tests.*

F. Each local school board shall maintain schools which meet the standards of accreditation as prescribed by the Board of Education. The accreditation status of all schools in each local school division shall be reviewed annually in public session. Within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall submit corrective action plans for any schools within its school division that have been designated as not meeting the criteria for determining effectiveness as approved by the Board.

G. Each local school board shall also provide teachers and principals with (i) periodic in-service training in preparing tests and other assessment measures and (ii) methods for assessing the progress of

individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced tests which match locally developed objectives.

H. In order to assess the educational progress of students as individuals and as groups, each local school board shall require the administration of appropriate assessments, which may include criterion-referenced tests, teacher-made tests and alternative assessment instruments and shall include the Virginia State Assessment Program, the Virginia State Literacy Testing Program, the Standards of Learning Assessments, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress state-by-state assessment. Each school board shall analyze and report annually, in compliance with any criteria which may be established by the Board of Education, the results from the Virginia State Assessment Program, the Standards of Learning Assessments, and the Virginia State Literacy Testing Program to the public.

I. To assist school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil academic performance and improve family and community involvement in the public schools, and from such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose, there shall be established within the Department of Education a unit to conduct evaluative studies and to provide the resources and technical assistance to increase the capacity of school divisions to deliver quality instruction. Such unit shall identify and analyze effective instructional programs and practices and professional development initiatives; evaluate the success of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes in student outcomes prompted by family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions information regarding effective instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and community involvement, and potential funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide resources supporting professional development for administrators and teachers. In providing such information, resources, and other services to school divisions, the unit shall give priority to those divisions demonstrating a less than seventy percent passing rate on (i) all three Literacy Passport tests by students taking these tests for the first time or (ii) the Standards of Learning assessment tests.

§ 22.1-253.13:3. (Effective July 1, 2003) Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and evaluation.

A. The General Assembly recognizes the need for the Board of Education to prescribe requirements to ensure that student progress is measured and that school boards and school personnel are accountable.

B. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for accreditation pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) which shall include, but not be limited to, student outcome measures, requirements and guidelines for instructional programs, administrative and instructional staffing levels and positions, pupil personnel services, special education program standards, auxiliary education programs such as library and media services, course and credit requirements for graduation from high school, community relations, and the philosophy, goals, and objectives of public education in Virginia.

In establishing course and credit requirements for a high school diploma, the Board shall provide for the selection of integrated learning courses meeting the Standards of Learning and approved by the Board to satisfy graduation credit requirements which shall include Standards of Learning Testing, as necessary.

The Board shall include in the student outcome measures, which are required by the Standards for Accreditation, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for various grade levels and classes, as determined by the Board, in accordance with the Standards of Learning. These Standards of Learning assessments shall include, but need not be limited to, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

In revising the standards for accreditation, the Board shall seek to set pupil-teacher ratios for educable mentally retarded (EMR) pupils that do not exceed the pupil-teacher ratios for self-contained classes for pupils with specific learning disabilities. The Board shall review annually the accreditation status of all schools in the Commonwealth.

The requirements for a standard or advanced studies high school diploma shall include one credit in fine, performing, or practical arts. The requirements for a standard high school diploma shall, however, include at least two sequential electives and may include a concentration of courses selected from a variety of options. Such concentration may be planned to ensure the completion of a focused sequence of elective courses leading to further education or preparation for employment developed by the school division consistent with Board of Education guidelines and as approved by the local school board.

The Board's regulations on accrediting schools shall include in the minimum staffing requirements, according to the type of school and student enrollment, requirements for employment of (i) principals in elementary schools, one half-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students; principals in middle schools, one full-time, to be employed on a twelve-month basis; principals in high schools, one full-time, to be employed on a twelve-month basis; (ii) assistant principals in elementary schools, one half-time at 600 students, one full-time at 900 students; assistant principals in middle schools, one full-time for each 600 students; assistant principals in high schools, one full-time for each 600 students; (iii) librarians in elementary schools, one part-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students; librarians in middle schools, one-half time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students, two full-time

at 1000 students; librarians in high schools, one half-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students, two full-time at 1000 students; (iv) guidance counselors in middle schools, one period per 80 students, one full-time at 400 students, one additional period per 80 students or major fraction thereof; guidance counselors in high schools, one period per 70 students, one full-time at 350 students, one additional period per 70 students or major fraction thereof; (v) clerical personnel in elementary schools, part-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students; clerical personnel in middle schools, one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600 students beyond 200 students and one full-time for the library at 750 students; clerical personnel in high schools, one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600 students beyond 200 students and one full-time for the library at 750 students; and (vi) reading specialists in elementary schools, one full-time in each elementary school at the discretion of the local school board. A combined school, such as kindergarten through twelve, shall meet at all grade levels the staffing requirements for the highest grade level in that school; this requirement shall apply to all staff, except for guidance counselors, and shall be based on the school's total enrollment; guidance counselor staff requirements shall, however, be based on the enrollment at the various school organization levels, i.e., middle or high school. The Board of Education may grant waivers from these staffing levels upon request from local school boards seeking to implement experimental or innovative programs that are not consistent with these staffing levels.

C. The Board shall also establish requirements for certification of teachers, principals, supervisors and other professional staff and determine eligibility for appointment as a local division superintendent.

D. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop and the Board of Education shall approve criteria for determining and recognizing educational performance in the Commonwealth's public school divisions and schools. Such criteria, when approved, shall become an integral part of the accreditation process and shall include student outcome measurements. One year following the approval by the Board of such criteria, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually identify to the Board those school divisions and schools that exceed or do not meet the approved criteria. Such identification shall include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of public education programs in the various school divisions in Virginia and recommendations to the General Assembly for further enhancing student learning uniformly across the Commonwealth. In recognizing educational performance in the school divisions, the Board shall include consideration of special school division accomplishments, such as numbers of dual enrollments and students in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses, and participation in academic year Governor's Schools.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall assist local school boards in the implementation of action plans for increasing educational performance in those school divisions and schools that are identified as not meeting the approved criteria. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall monitor the implementation of and report to the Board of Education on the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken to improve the educational performance in such school divisions and schools.

The Department of Education shall conduct technical assistance visits for local school divisions. Schools accredited with a warning shall be given priority for such assistance, which shall include an analysis of relevant school data and the development and implementation of improvement plans to assist such schools in improving their accreditation status.

E. In order to assess the educational progress of students, the Board of Education shall also (i) develop appropriate assessments, which may include criterion-referenced tests and alternative assessment instruments which may be used by classroom teachers and (ii) prescribe and provide measures, which may include nationally normed tests, to be designated as the Virginia State Assessment Program, which shall be used to identify students who score in the bottom quartile at selected grade levels. The Board of Education is authorized to pursue all available civil remedies for breaches in test security. *Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, no test or examination authorized by this section, including the Standards of Learning assessments, shall be released or required to be released as minimum competency tests, if, in the judgment of the Board, such release would breach the security of such test or examination or deplete the bank of questions necessary to construct future secure tests.*

F. Each local school board shall maintain schools which meet the standards of accreditation as prescribed by the Board of Education. The accreditation status of all schools in each local school division shall be reviewed annually in public session. Within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall submit corrective action plans for any schools within its school division that have been designated as not meeting the criteria for determining effectiveness as approved by the Board.

G. Each local school board shall also provide teachers and principals with (i) periodic in-service training in preparing tests and other assessment measures and (ii) methods for assessing the progress of individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced tests which match locally developed objectives.

H. In order to assess the educational progress of students as individuals and as groups, each local

675 school board shall require the administration of appropriate assessments, which may include
676 criterion-referenced tests, teacher-made tests and alternative assessment instruments and shall include the
677 Virginia State Assessment Program, the Virginia State Literacy Testing Program, the Standards of
678 Learning Assessments, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress state-by-state assessment.
679 Each school board shall analyze and report annually, in compliance with any criteria which may be
680 established by the Board of Education, the results from the Virginia State Assessment Program and the
681 Standards of Learning Assessments to the public.

682 I. To assist school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil
683 academic performance and improve family and community involvement in the public schools, and from
684 such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose, there shall be established within the Department of
685 Education a unit to conduct evaluative studies and to provide the resources and technical assistance to
686 increase the capacity of school divisions to deliver quality instruction. Such unit shall identify and
687 analyze effective instructional programs and practices and professional development initiatives; evaluate
688 the success of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes in student
689 outcomes prompted by family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions
690 information regarding effective instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and
691 community involvement, and potential funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide
692 resources supporting professional development for administrators and teachers. In providing such
693 information, resources, and other services to school divisions, the unit shall give priority to those
694 divisions demonstrating a less than seventy percent passing rate on (i) all three Literacy Passport tests
695 by students taking these tests for the first time or (ii) the Standards of Learning assessment tests.