

## INSTRUCTION

File: IKH

### RETAKING SOL ASSESSMENTS

Students in kindergarten through grade 8 are not required to retake Standards of Learning (SOL) tests unless they are retained in grade and have not previously passed the test or they are placed in a remediation recovery program developed by the School Board. Students in high school are not required to retake end-of-course SOL tests unless the student previously failed the course and the test, or the student needs to earn verified credit for graduation.

The following criteria are used in determining the eligibility of students for an expedited retake of a SOL test for grades 3-8 or an end-of-course SOL test administered to meet federal accountability requirements.

The student must have a passing grade in the class associated with the test and one of the following:

- The student failed the test by a narrow margin as defined as a scaled score of 375-399, or
- The student failed the test with a scaled score below 375 and
  - had a documented extenuating circumstance that prevented the student from performing at the expected level and/or
  - there was a significant discrepancy between the student's SOL test score and the student's typical academic performance

An extenuating circumstance for purposes of expedited retakes of SOL tests for grades 3-8 and end-of-course tests administered to meet federal accountability requirements is defined as an unusual and uncontrollable event that negatively impacted a student's test performance. Examples of extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to, the recent death of a family member, friend, or pet; a traumatic home situation, or other significant personal distress or disruption that does not qualify for irregularity retesting.

Evidence that the SOL test score is significantly lower than expected based on the student's typical level of achievement may be used to justify retesting. Data used to establish the student's typical performance may include previous SOL test data in the same content area or evidence of the student's current academic achievement.

Documentation of the unusual circumstances experienced for each student retested under the extenuating circumstances provision and evidence of the student's typical academic achievement for those retesting under the significant achievement discrepancy provision is maintained. The documentation is subject to periodic review by Virginia Department of Education staff on behalf of the Board of Education.

Prior to any expedited retake for students who have failed an SOL test for grades 3-8, the school division obtains, and thereafter maintains, documentation annually of affirmative parental consent and permission for their child to take an expedited retake. Parents of eligible students are notified 1) of the opportunity to retake the test(s), 2) that the decision not to retake any or all of the test(s) will not impact their child's grade or academic record; and 3) of the opt-in requirement.

Expedited Retakes for End-of-Course Tests Needed for Verified Credits

With such funds as are appropriated by the General Assembly, the Board of Education will provide opportunities for students who meet criteria adopted by that Board to have an expedited retake of a SOL test to earn verified credit.

The following criteria are used in determining the eligibility of students for an expedited retake of an end-of-course test for verified credit.

The student must need the test for verified credit, have a passing grade in the course associated with the test, and have

- failed the test by a narrow margin defined as a scaled core of 375-399, or
- failed the test by any margin and had extenuating circumstances that would warrant retesting.

Extenuating circumstances for the purposes of expedited retakes of end-of-courses tests needed for verified credit are defined by the superintendent but must be restricted to situations that specifically affect the student who is being retested. Extenuating circumstances may include the need to pass the test to graduate.

Adopted: April 17, 2008  
Revised: June 25, 2013  
Revised: June 27, 2016  
Revised: June 19, 2018

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Legal References: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-30.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Revisions to the Criteria for the Determination of Student Eligibility for Expedited Retakes of Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests, Virginia Board of Education, March 22, 2018.

Cross References: IKF The Virginia Assessment  
Program and Graduation Requirements  
IKG Remediation Recovery Program  
IL Testing Programs