Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: L. Date: September 22, 2004

Topic: First Review of an Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) Recommendation to Establish ACT Scores as a Substitute Test for Praxis I

Presenter: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure

Telephone Number: (804) 371-2522 E-Mail Address: telliott@mail.vak12ed.edu

Origin:

___ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

x Board review required by
   x State or federal law or regulation
   ____ Board of Education regulation
   ___ Other: ____________

___ Action requested at this meeting x Action requested at future meeting: October 28, 2004 (date)

Previous Review/Action:

x No previous board review/action

___ Previous review/action
date ____________________________
action ____________________________

Background Information:

On March 24, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of the SAT as a substitute test for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) required for initial licensure. The board approved a score of 1000 on the SAT, taken prior to April 1, 1995, with at least 450 on the verbal and 510 on the mathematics tests or a score of 1100 on the SAT, taken after April 1, 1995, with at least 530 on the verbal and 530 on the mathematics tests as a substitute for Praxis I.

The Board of Education’s decision to approve the SAT as a substitute for Praxis I was a recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure. The advisory board based its recommendations to the Board of Education on a study titled, Report of Virginia PPST Exemption Study: Exemption Based on SAT Scores, conducted by Samuel A. Livingston and Kevin Larkin, Educational Testing Service (ETS).

The study described in the ETS report was designed to estimate the relationship between a prospective teacher’s SAT score and the probability of passing the PPST reading and mathematics tests. This relationship was estimated using the SAT verbal score as a predictor of success on PPST reading and the SAT mathematics
score as a predictor of success on PPST mathematics. The probabilities were estimated for the Virginia qualifying scores on each PPST test: 178 for PPST reading and 178 for PPST mathematics.

The SAT score scale was revised in April of 1995; therefore, scores were approved for test takers prior to April 1, 1995, and those who took the test after April 1, 1995. At least three states use the SAT as a substitute test for Praxis I – Connecticut, Delaware, and Georgia. Two of the states also have established correspondences between ACT and SAT I scores. The correspondences between ACT and SAT I scores were established from College Board Report No. 99-1; ETS RR No. 99-2 titled, *Correspondences Between ACT and SAT I Scores*, Neil J. Dorans, College Entrance Examination Board, New York, 1999. This study was the source for the ABTEL recommendation for Virginia. The full study with concordance tables for mathematics, English Plus Reading and composite scores is available at: www.collegeboard.com/research/home.

**Summary of Major Elements:**

Relationships among the different scales of the ACT and SAT I, two nationally known college admission tests, are described in the context of the conceptual framework developed and explained in the 1999 College Board study titled, *Correspondence Between ACT and SAT I Scores*. Users want to know how scores on the ACT and the SAT I are related. Dorans, Lyu, Pommerick, and Houston (1997) presented correspondences between SAT I and both the ACT Sum and the ACT Composite. Data from that study are used to provide examples of both concordances and predictions among various scores on the two prominent tests. Sums of scores, composites of scores, and individual scores are examined.

Currently, three other states (Georgia, Delaware, and Connecticut) use the SAT as a substitute test for Praxis I. Of those three states, two have correspondences between the SAT and the ACT score. Georgia accepts ACT scores in lieu of Praxis I with a minimum score of 21 on the English subtest and 22 on the mathematics subtest. Connecticut accepts ACT scores of 22 on the English subtest, and no less than 19 on the mathematics subtest if taken on or after October 1989 and no less than 20 on the English subtest and no less than 17 on the mathematics subtest if taken prior to October 1989. The state of Delaware does not accept the ACT, but will accept a combination of Praxis I, SAT, GRE, California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), and NTE communication skills to satisfy the Praxis I portion of the state’s assessment requirements.

ACT scores based on Concordance Between SAT I Mathematical and ACT Mathematics Scores (table 7); Concordance Between ACT English Plus Reading and SAT I Verbal Scores (tables 14 and 15); and Concordance Between ACT Sum and SAT I Verbal and Mathematics Scores (table A.3); were used to arrive at the recommended ACT scores to use as a substitute test for Praxis I.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the following ABTEL proposal as an ACT substitute test for Praxis I:

Prior to April 1, 1995 -- a composite score of 21 (concordance with the combined SAT 1000 score), with the ACT mathematics score no less than 21 (concordance with the 510 SAT mathematics score), and an ACT English and Reading score no less than 37 (concordance with 450 SAT verbal score).
After April 1, 1995 – a composite score of 24 (concordance with the combined SAT 1100 score), with the ACT mathematics score no less than 22 (concordance with the 530 mathematics score), and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than 46 (concordance with the 530 SAT verbal score).

**Impact on Resources:** There will be no impact on resources with the implementation of this recommendation.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**