Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: J. Date: September 21, 2005

Topic: Report on the No Child Left Behind Act State and Local Cost Studies (HB 2602 and SB 1136, 2005 General Assembly)

Presenter: Ms. Michelle Vucci, Director of Policy
Dr. Robert Palaich, Vice President, Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc.

Telephone Number: 804-225-2092 E-MailAddress: michelle.vucci@doe.virginia.gov

Origin:

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

___ Board review required by

___ State or federal law or regulation

___ Board of Education regulation

___ Other: 

X Action requested at this meeting

___ Action requested at future meeting: 

Previous Review/Action:

___ No previous board review/action

X Previous review/action
date July 27, 2005
action Information only.

Background Information: The 2005 General Assembly required the Board of Education to examine the fiscal and policy implications for the state and local school divisions in the event that Virginia continues its compliance with, or withdraws from participation in, NCLB. The Board’s findings are to be conveyed to the House Education and Appropriations committees and to the Senate Education and Health and Finance committees no later than October 1. When this mandate was issued, DOE was already under way with its cost analysis, primarily because of its participation in a consortium of state departments of education, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The CCSSO contracted with Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA) to develop a model framework for states and school divisions to use to
determine the activities and costs to implement NCLB. Virginia used this model framework and also contracted with APA for assistance on both studies.

**Summary of Major Elements:** Both the state and local Virginia reports discuss the implementation of NCLB in the context of the Commonwealth’s well-established existing system of assessment, accountability and support. Consistent with the APA/CCSSO framework, both studies only identify estimated costs that would not exist without NCLB. The measurement period for the study ranges from 2003-2004 to 2007-2008.

Both the state and local reports include a cost to revenue comparison. For both Virginia reports, the revenue base examines only NCLB directly-related federal revenues as identified by the U.S. Department of Education (USED), not other federal revenues such as the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The projected revenues are also based upon state/federal fiscal year award amounts and do not take into consideration those federal grants carried over as unexpended in post-award years.

**State Report** - The state report uses 2004-2005 as the base year for analysis. Cost drivers for the state report include: 1) testing requirements for new grades and for students needing accommodations; 2) the administration of NCLB and Title programs (including the Reading First program); 3) high quality educators, and 4) technical assistance. The costs included in the state report include an accounting for 23 additional federally-funded positions authorized by the 2005 General Assembly specifically for NCLB. **Appendices**

**Local Report** - Eight school divisions, one from each region, agreed to participate in the local cost study. These divisions are: 1) Albemarle County; 2) Fairfax County; 3) City of Fredericksburg; 4) Halifax County; 5) Henrico County; 6) City of Norfolk; 7) Roanoke County; and 8) Washington County. These divisions comprise approximately 14 percent of all Title I schools and contained almost one-fourth of Virginia’s total student population for the 2003-2004 school year, which is the base year for this study. APA, working with the department, collected base year cost data for these school divisions and used these data to build a statistical model that extrapolates statewide cost estimates. **Appendices**

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review and authorize the department to submit these reports to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance no later than October 1, 2005, as required by HB 2602 and SB 1136.

**Impact on Resources:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** Once the Board approves these reports, they will be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly no later than October 1.