**Parental SOL Opt-Out Designation on Non-End of Course (EOC) SOL Tests**

WHEREAS, Virginia Standards of learning tests are administered annually to students in grades 3-12;

1. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/school_report_card/accountability_guide.pdf>
2. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/va_assessment_program_changes.pdf>
3. <http://doe.virginia.gov/testing/test_administration/testing_calendars/2015-2016_sol_testing_calendar.pdf>

WHEREAS, Virginia state law does not require passing SOL scores as a precursor to advancing to the next grade level;

1. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_standing/accountability/2013/meeting_materials/05-22-2013_overview_regs_establishing_soa.pdf>
2. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_standing/accountability/2013/meeting_materials/05-22-2013_overview_regs_establishing_soa.pdf>
3. All students in tested grade levels and courses are **expected** to participate in Virginia’s assessment program, unless specifically exempted by state or federal law or by Board of Education regulations. Virginia’s assessment system includes students with disabilities and limited English proficient (LEP) students. Students with disabilities and LEP students may take Standards of Learning tests with or without accommodations or they may be assessed through alternate or alternative assessments. The tests that comprise the Virginia Assessment Program are offered in English only; administration of the tests in other languages is not permitted. ***VA DOE web site***

WHEREAS, a passing score on any End of Course SOL (High School Credit) is required to earn a verified credit in that course;

1. 8 VAC 20-131-110
2. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/va_assessment_program_changes.pdf>
3. <http://www.virginiasol.com/>
4. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/standard.shtml>

WHEREAS, students are not required to take SOL tests;

1. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2013/142-13.shtml>
2. All students in tested grade levels and courses are expected to participate in Virginia’s assessment program, unless specifically exempted by state or federal law or by Board of Education regulations. Virginia’s assessment system includes students with disabilities and limited English proficient (LEP) students. Students with disabilities and LEP students may take Standards of Learning tests with or without accommodations or they may be assessed through alternate or alternative assessments. The tests that comprise the Virginia Assessment Program are offered in English only; administration of the tests in other languages is not permitted. VA DOE web site
3. <http://www.nbc12.com/story/25497436/sol-opt-out>

WHEREAS, parents may currently decide to opt their child out of taking any SOL test;

1. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2013/142-13.shtml>
2. <https://pwceducationreform.wordpress.com/2011/03/21/opting-out-of-state-tests/>
3. <https://pwceducationreform.wordpress.com/2011/05/15/can-you-say-no-to-state-mandated-testing>

WHEREAS, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) regulations requires that any student who does not take an SOL test for any reason, including Parental Opt Out, to be counted as a “refusal” which equates to a score of zero and as a failing grade on all SOL reports;

1. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2013/142-13.shtml>
2. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/prince-william-father-learns-how-to-opt-out-of-standardized-test/2013/05/26/8af0165c-c310-11e2-8c3b-0b5e9247e8ca_story.html>
3. <http://unitedoptout.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Virginia-July-2014.pdf>

WHEREAS, failing SOL scores can result in the loss of accreditation of a school or school division;

1. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/accreditation/regulations_establishing_soa.pdf>
2. <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/testing-in-va/>
3. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/accreditation_federal_reports/accreditation/index.shtml>

WHEREAS, SOL scores are used in teacher evaluations and school and school division accreditation;

1. 8VAC 20-131-30
2. 8VAC20-131-50
3. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/school_report_card/accountability_guide.pdf>
4. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_teachers.pdf>

RESOLVED, that Virginia PTA seeks legislation that would require the VDOE to designate a “Parental Opt Out” option and designation on non-End of Course SOL tests;

RESOLVED, that Virginia PTA seeks legislation that would require a verified parent or guardian signature in order for any student to opt out of a non-End of Course SOL;

RESOLVED, that Virginia PTA seeks legislation that would require that there be no negative impact of a Parental Opt Out designation on the student, any teacher evaluation, or school and school division accreditation rating.